

Rice Takes New Blow

DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A moderate Republican senator, vital to any White House hopes of getting U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice confirmed as secre-



U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice meets with President Barack Obama during a Cabinet meeting in the White House, Nov. 28, 2012.
(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

tary of state, said Wednesday she couldn't back any nomination until more questions are answered about the deadly Sept. 11 attack in Libya and Rice's State Department role during the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombing in Kenya.

In a fresh suggestion of eroding GOP support for Rice, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine emerged from a 90-minute, closed-door meeting with the ambassador voicing new criticism of her initial account about Libya. Collins also questioned what Rice, the assistant secretary of state for African Affairs in the Clinton administration, knew about requests for enhanced embassy security before the Nairobi truck bombing.

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Let's Make A Deal



Obama says he'll do what it takes to avoid cliff

President Barack Obama speaks during a news conference at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, Nov. 28, 2012. In reference to the fiscal cliff, Obama on Wednesday urged middle class taxpayers to make their voices heard by Congress and also asked them to share over Twitter what tax hikes would do to them.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and a key congressional Democrat hinted at fresh concessions on taxes and cuts to government benefit programs Wednesday as bargaining with Republicans lurched ahead to avoid the year-end "fiscal cliff" that threat-

ens to send the economy into a tailspin.

Increasing numbers of rank-and-file Republicans also said they were ready to give ground, a boost for House Speaker John Boehner and other party leaders who say they will agree to higher tax revenues as part of a deal if it also curbs benefit programs as a way

to rein in federal deficits.

The goal of the talks is to produce a long-term deficit-cutting deal that will allow the cancellation of tax increases and spending cuts scheduled for the end of the year — the "fiscal cliff" that numerous economists say threaten a new recession. "I'll go anywhere and I'll do whatever it takes

to get this done," President Barack Obama said as he sought to build pressure on Republicans to accept his terms — a swift renewal of expiring tax cuts for all but the highest income earners. "It's too important for Washington to screw this up," he declared.

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First Lady unveils White House holiday decorations

WASHINGTON (Handout) It took 54 live Christmas trees, 175 pounds of gingerbread and 85 volunteers from across the country to pull it off, but the holidays have finally arrived at the White House.

First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed military families to the White House today for the big reveal and to show off this year's theme of "Joy to All."

"It celebrates the many joys of the holiday seasons: the joy of giving and service to others; the joy of sharing our blessings with one another; and, of course, the joy of welcoming our friends and families as guests into our homes over these next several weeks," she told the crowd gathered in the East Room.

The first lady praised the service and sacrifice of the families gathered at the White House today, which included Gold Star and Blue Star parents, spouses



White House Pastry Chef Bill Yosses explains his design for the nearly 300-pound gingerbread house of the White House, on display in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. The house features Bo, the Obama family dog, left, a vegetable garden and views inside the White House. The theme for the White House Christmas 2012 is Joy to All. The White House gingerbread house has been a tradition since the 1960s.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

and children. "This is one big, huge thank you," she said. "I have said this many times before and I will say it again, because I can't say

it enough - our military families truly represent the very best that this country has to offer. And I've seen it up close. You all do so much

for this country, and you do it with such amazing poise and grace." Several of the decorations honor the military, including red, white

and blue wreaths and special ornaments decorated by families of fallen soldiers. The decor also includes a nod to holidays past, with four trees trimmed with ornaments paying tribute to the legacies of former first ladies. "They just give you a sense of what Christmas felt like in other administrations with other families and first ladies," Mrs. Obama said. More than 90,000 visitors will tour the decorations at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue this holiday season, which now boasts a huge 18-foot-6-inch Fraser fir in the Blue Room and a giant topiary of the Obama family dog Bo made out of 20,000 black and white pom-poms. Other highlights include the annual White House gingerbread house, which weighs in at an impressive 300 pounds. "It even includes chandeliers that light up," the first lady bragged. "It glows. Like Rudolph's nose, right." □

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Moderate Maine senator voices concern over Rice

Continued from front

Pressed on how she would vote if President Barack Obama names Rice to succeed Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Collins said, "I would need to have additional information before I could support her nomination."

President Barack Obama came to Rice's defense during a Cabinet meeting, calling her "extraordinary" and saying he couldn't be prouder of the job she has done as U.N. ambassador. Cabinet members joined Obama in applauding Rice, who attended the meeting. Obama has not named a replacement for Clinton, who has said she intends to step down soon. At the State Department, Clinton was asked about her possible replacement. "Susan Rice has done a great job as our ambassa-

dor to the United Nations," Clinton said. "Of course, this decision about my successor is up to the president, but I am very happy he has the opportunity with a second term to make a decision."

The misgivings from Collins, the top Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, came one day after three other GOP senators said they would try to block Rice's nomination. Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire said they were more troubled than ever by Rice's answers on Libya even though the ambassador conceded that her much-maligned first explanation was wrong.

In an unusual move, Rice and acting CIA Director Michael Morell have held two days of private meetings

with Republican senators in hopes of assuaging their concerns. Privately, Senate Republicans said they had hoped the conversations would quiet the criticism

as they want to avoid the spectacle of a postelection challenge to a female African-American nominee. Instead, the sessions have cast further doubt on her

chances for the top State Department job and increased the likelihood of a protracted fight if Obama does choose her. Although Democrats will have 55 votes in the next Congress, the president would need the support of five Republicans to avoid a filibuster of the nomination. Collins would be a prime candidate to help avoid a filibuster of the nomination.

Collins said she was troubled by Rice's "political role" in downplaying the Libya attack as a spontaneous demonstration over an anti-Muslim video rather than a terrorist attack by al-Qaida affiliates in a series of Sunday talk show appearances on Sept. 16 — five days after the attack and weeks before the election. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the raid on the U.S. diplomatic mission. □



U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, center, leaves after meeting separately with Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) to discuss the Sept. 11 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Nov. 28, 2012. Rice met with the Republican representatives to smooth over the festering dispute about the deadly attack on the American diplomatic mission and clear a roadblock to her nomination as Secretary of State.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

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Obama says he'll do what it takes to avoid cliff

Continued from front

For all the talk, there was no sign of tangible progress on an issue that marks a first test for divided government since elections that assured Obama a second term in the White House while renewing Republican control in the House.

"It's time for the president and Democrats to get serious about the spending problem that our country has," Boehner said at a news conference. He, like Obama, expressed optimism that a deal could be reached.

At the same time, he publicly disagreed with one Republican lawmaker, Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, who said he was ready to go along with Obama's plan to renew most but not all of the expiring income tax cuts. "It'll hurt the economy" to raise rates for anyone, said Boehner.

Separately, at a closed-door meeting with the rank and file, the speaker told fellow Republicans they are on solid political ground in refusing to let tax rates rise. He circulated polling data showing the public favors closing loopholes to raise revenue far more than it supports raising rates on in-

comes over \$250,000.

On Wednesday, a group of corporate CEOs pushing for a deal met separately with top Democratic and Republican leaders in the House, joined by Erskine Bowles, who was co-chairman of a deficit commission Obama appointed earlier in his term.

Speaking to reporters before a session with business leaders, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said the bargaining ought to begin where deficit talks between Obama and Boehner broke down 18 months ago "and go from there to reach an agreement." □



Arne Sorenson, the president and chief executive officer of Marriott International, at the White House in Washington, Nov. 28, 2012. Sorenson and several other chief executives of major companies met with President Barack Obama on Wednesday to discuss the looming fiscal cliff.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Obama, Romney to break bread at the White House

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2012 New York Times

President Barack Obama will have lunch with his one-time Republican rival, Mitt Romney, at the White House on Thursday, making good on an election-night pledge by the president to meet with Romney.

The White House announced the event Wednesday, in a statement released by Obama's press secretary. The lunch will take place in the Private Dining Room, next to the Oval Office in the West Wing, the White House said. "It will be the first opportunity they have had to visit since the election," the statement says. "There will be no press coverage of the meeting."

In fact, the meeting will be closely watched. The two men competed intensely for the better part of a year. Romney, in private conversations with donors shortly after the election, blamed his loss in part on the president promising "gifts" to Democratic constituencies like minorities and students. While in Washington, Romney will also be meeting with his former running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, according to a spokesman for Ryan.

In his victory speech on election night, Obama praised Romney's legacy of public service and said

that he looked "forward to sitting down with Gov. Romney to talk about where we can work together to move this country forward."

A week later, in his first post-election news conference, Obama elaborated on that promise, saying that he thought there were "certain aspects" of Mr. Romney's background that could help the country confront the fiscal challenges in the years ahead.

The president added: "He presented some ideas during the course of the campaign that I actually agree with. And so it'd be interesting to talk to him about something like that."

But it's unclear whether the luncheon on Thursday will lead to any long-term political partnership between the two men. Four years ago, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who lost his presidential bid to Obama, pledged to work with the president in the weeks after the 2008 election. But McCain has become one of Obama's fiercest critics.

Romney has all but disappeared from public view since his loss to Obama. He has refrained from any participation in the public debate over the country's fiscal problems.

Romney did release a Thanksgiving picture of himself and his wife, Ann, in the kitchen. □



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3 BP employees arraigned on Gulf oil spill charges

M. KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two BP rig supervisors and a former BP executive pleaded not guilty Wednesday to criminal charges stemming from the deadly Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and the company's response to the massive 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico. BP well site leaders Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine, along with former BP vice president of exploration for the Gulf David Rainey, remained free on bond following their arraignments in federal court. Kaluza and Vidrine are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers. They are accused of disregarding abnormally high pressure readings that should have been glaring indications of trouble just before the blowout of BP's Macondo well.

Rainey was charged separately with concealing information from Congress about the amount of oil that was leaking from the well. Millions of gallons of crude oil spewed from BP's well for months. Kaluza professed his innocence on his way into court, making his first public comments since the April 2010 explosion that killed his co-workers. "I think about the tragedy of the Deepwater Horizon every day," Kaluza told reporters. "But I did not cause this tragedy. I am innocent and I put my trust, reputation and future in the hands of the judge and the jury." Kaluza and Vidrine's lawyers both accused the Justice Department of using their clients as scapegoats. They noted that other government investigations have spread out the blame for the disaster and con-

cluded it was the product of a complex series of mistakes, made both onshore and on the rig. "Bob and

with their training." Robert Habans, one of Vidrine's lawyers, said his client diligently followed instructions



Robert Kaluza, second from right, a BP well site leader from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, with his legal team at Federal Court in New Orleans, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012.
(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

Don did their jobs," said Shaun Clarke, one of Kaluza's attorneys. "They did them correctly and they did them in accordance

he received from engineers and others onshore. "He's not the architect or the engineer. He didn't design the well, and he didn't

make the critical decisions in this case," Habans said. The case against Kaluza and Vidrine centers on their roles in supervising "negative testing," which is designed to assess whether a cement barrier is effectively preventing oil or gas from flowing up the well. The indictment says they had "multiple indications" from the negative testing that the well wasn't secure. Yet they allegedly failed to alert onshore engineers about the problems during the testing, accepted a "nonsensical explanation" for abnormal pressure readings and eventually decided to stop investigating. Habans, however, said court records related to civil litigation over the spill indicates Vidrine did discuss the test results with an onshore engineer less than an hour before the blast. □

NY court stays Argentina debt ruling

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday gave Argentina breathing room in its billion-dollar debt showdown, indefinitely suspending a lower court judge's ruling that threatened to push the country into default. The one-page order by the appeals court sets a Feb. 27 date for arguments in the case, averting a Dec. 15 deadline for a \$1.3 billion payment that Argentina has refused to make despite losing its case in federal court against NML Capital Ltd., an investment fund that specializes in suing over unpaid sovereign debts. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals stayed a ruling by Judge Thomas Griesa that ordered the government of President Cristina Fernandez to pay the money into an escrow account even as it pursued its final appeals. Fernandez has called the ruling by Griesa "judicial colonialism." She has refused to pay anything to what she calls "vulture funds," saying that, if allowed to stand, the judge's ruling will give them a huge advantage over countries that need to restructure debts and grow their way out of economic crises. Griesa's order threatened to set off a crisis, as lawyers

representing other holders of defaulted debt, totaling more than \$11 billion, were expected to demand immediate payment as well. Griesa's ruling in favor of NML Capital, a fund run by billionaire Paul Singer, was issued just before the long Thanksgiving weekend, and the consequences for Argentina were severe. The value of Argentina's restructured bonds slipped in Monday trading, and the cost of insuring this debt against default jumped 51 percent on Friday, according to data from Factset. Argentina's Economy Ministry was closed Monday for another national holiday, Sovereignty Day. □

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THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN PART 2
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Jose Padilla wins resentence delay

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Convicted terrorism plotter Jose Padilla has won a delay in his scheduled resentencing hearing to allow time for family members to visit him. His attorney says the visits may improve his mental health. U.S. District Judge

Marcia Cooke delayed resentencing from next week to Jan. 29. Padilla attorney Michael Caruso says the 42-year-old Padilla's psychological condition has deteriorated since his original 2008 sentencing. An appeals court rejected Padilla's current 17-year prison sentence as too lenient,

ordering Cooke to impose a longer sentence. Padilla and two others were convicted of conspiracy and terrorism support charges involving al-Qaida. Padilla was held in a Navy brig without charges over three years as an enemy combatant, for which the judge gave him credit. □



Jabin Bogan and his mother Aletha Smith participate in a news conference in El Paso, Texas. The 27-year-old Dallas truck driver was released after seven months in a prison in Mexico accused of ammunition smuggling.

(AP Photo/Juan Carlos Llorca)

NY nanny pleads not guilty to murder

RUSS BUETTNER

© 2012 New York Times

NEW YORK — The nanny charged with fatally stabbing two children she cared for in Manhattan pleaded not guilty to murder charges Wednesday from her hospital bed. The nanny, Yoselyn Ortega,

Associated Press, the only news organization allowed to witness the 10-minute proceeding. Her lawyer, Valerie Leer-Greenberg, entered the plea on Ortega's behalf. The police charged Ortega with first-degree murder Nov. 3, delaying the

er described the proceeding to her. Her lawyer told the judge that she was still too frail to be discharged from the hospital. The police have said that the children's mother, Marina Krim, returned home from a swimming lesson last month with her 3-year-old daughter to find Ortega in the bathroom stabbing herself in the throat and Krim's other two children — Lucia Krim, 6, and Leo Krim, 2 — in the bathtub dying from knife wounds. "This crime shocked and horrified parents around the city, many of whom entrust their children to the care of others both by necessity and by choice," said Cyrus R. Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney.

Relatives of the Krims said they had treated Ortega as a member of their own family and would even pay for her to travel to the Dominican Republic so Ortega could visit her family while the Krims went on vacation. But Ortega told detectives that she resented how the parents always told her what to do, a law enforcement official said this month. Relatives and friends of Ortega have said that they had seen signs of her unraveling lately, and that she had sought help from a mental health professional. □



Judge Lewis Bart Stone, center, leaves New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center with two court officers after presiding over the arraignment of Yoselyn Ortega on murder charges in New York, Nov. 28, 2012. Ortega, who is still hospitalized, pleaded not guilty to the charges of fatally stabbing two children she cared for as a nanny.

(Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

50, has been hospitalized at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center since the evening of Oct. 25, when the children were found dead in a luxury apartment building a block from Central Park. Ortega's hands were handcuffed under a white blanket and her hair pulled under a blue hairnet, according to a pool report by The

charges because she was intubated and unable to speak as she received treatment for self-inflicted knife wounds to her throat and wrists. On Wednesday, Ortega was wearing a neck brace and still had part of the apparatus of a tracheotomy in her throat. She did not speak, although a Spanish interpret-

Dallas trucker discusses time in Mexican prison

NOMAAN MERCHANT

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Jabin Bogan spent seven months sleeping on the floor of a cell in a maximum-security Mexican prison, detained after he accidentally crossed the border at El Paso with 268,000 bullets in his truck. Nine people lived in Bogan's cell, with just five beds. Only one spoke English. Bogan said he didn't eat for three weeks. He constantly wondered if he was in danger. "You never know what's going on," Bogan said Friday. "You're surrounded by people that don't speak your language, so you never know what they talk about."

The Dallas trucker gave new details Friday about his release and the ordeal leading up to it. The 27-year-old Bogan returned to the U.S. Friday after being freed from prison the week before. Bogan maintains he was on his way to Phoenix in April to deliver the ammunition stored in his truck. He says he accidentally crossed

onto a border bridge in El Paso, Texas, and tried to turn around after he realized his mistake, but Mexican customs agents wouldn't let him go back. He was detained and eventually sent to a Mexican maximum-security prison. Bogan was convicted of smuggling and sentenced to three years in prison even though Mexican customs agents contradicted prosecutors' claims at trial that Bogan had hidden the bullets under the floorboards of his 18-wheeler's trailer. His sentence was later commuted to time served and a fine. His U.S. attorney, Larry Taylor, said about \$5,000 in donations covered a fine paid to Mexican authorities and fees for an attorney there. Taylor and Bogan declined to say whether Mexican authorities had banned him from returning to the country. Bogan said a few guards spoke English, as did a cellmate who had lived in Oklahoma City. Otherwise, he was isolated. □



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Key players and positions on Palestinian statehood

LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

IN FAVOR OR LEANING:

FRANCE: Yes. Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius made the announcement before parliament. "In any case, it's only through negotiations - that we ask for without conditions and immediately between the two sides - that we will be able to reach the realization of a Palestinian state," Fabius said Tuesday.

CHINA: Yes. The foreign minister reaffirmed support for Palestinian aspirations at the U.N. during a meeting last Friday with a Palestinian envoy.

SPAIN, NORWAY, DENMARK, SWITZERLAND: All announced Wednesday they would vote yes. The Swiss government called a change in status "both constructive and pragmatic."

AUSTRIA: Yes. Martin Weiss, the foreign ministry spokesman, said Austria decided to vote for the resolution after it became clear there would be no common EU position.

ICELAND: Yes. Iceland's foreign ministry said the country was "at the forefront of states that support the Palestinian cause" and hoped the resolution will help Palestine become a full-fledged UN member state.

IRELAND: Yes. Ireland, which has long sympathized with the Palestinians, said it hoped the measure "will encourage the Palestinian people that they are slowly coming towards their goal," government minister Shane McEntee said.

RUSSIA: Probably yes. It supported Palestinian

membership in the U.N. cultural agency, UNESCO.

INDIA: Yes.

GREECE: Yes.

OPPOSE, ABSTAIN, LEANING:

UNITED STATES: Opposed. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said U.N. recognition of an independent Palestine won't help to reach a lasting two-state peace agreement and stressed that the "path to a two-state solution that fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people is through Jerusalem and Ramallah, not New York."

CANADA: Opposed. Canada is a staunch ally of Israel. Rick Roth, a spokesman for Canada's foreign minister, said any two-state solution must be negotiated and mutually agreed upon by both states.

GERMANY: No or abstain. It's "very certain that Germany will not vote for such a resolution," said Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert.

NETHERLANDS: Probably no. "Lasting peace in the region can only be reached if Israel and the Palestinians return to the negotiating table to reach a final agreement over a two-state solution," according to a letter the foreign minister sent to parliament this week.

BRITAIN: Possibly abstain. The foreign secretary said Britain could support the measure only if there were a clear commitment by the Palestinians to return immediately and unconditionally to negotiations with Israel.

AUSTRALIA: Abstain, according to Prime Minister Julia Gillard. □

Palestinians seek leverage from UN bid

DALIA NAMMARI
KARIN LAUB
Associated Press
RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— The expected U.N. vote Thursday to recognize a state of Palestine will be far more than symbolic — it could give the Palestinians leverage in future border talks with Israel and open the way for possible war crimes charges against the Jewish state.

time, saying it's an attempt to bypass Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that broke down four years ago.

The U.S. deputy secretary of state, William Burns, met with Abbas in New York on Wednesday, asking Abbas again to drop the idea and promising that President Barack Obama would re-engage as a mediator in 2013, said Abbas aide Saeb Erekat. Abbas told Burns it

jamin Netanyahu's predecessors accepted the 1967 lines as a basis for border talks, with modifications to be negotiated, including land swaps that would enable Israel to annex some of the largest Jewish settlements.

Those talks did not produce a deal, and the sides remained apart on other key issues.

Netanyahu rejects the 1967



Palestinian security officers slide down from a building next to a banner of President Mahmoud Abbas with Yasser Arafat, in the West Bank town of Jenin, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. The Palestinians will request the UN to upgrade their status to an observer state on November 29.

(AP Photo/Mohammed Ballas)

The Palestinians want the 193-member General Assembly to accept "Palestine," on the lands Israel occupied in 1967, as a non-member observer state. They anticipate broad support. For Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the U.N. bid is a last-ditch attempt to stay relevant as a leader after years of failed peace talks with Israel, at a time when his Islamic militant Hamas rivals are gaining ground.

The U.S. and Israel have tried to block the quest for U.N. recognition of Pales-

was too late.

Israel, meanwhile, appeared to back away from threats of drastic measures if the Palestinians get U.N. approval, with officials suggesting the government would take steps only if the Palestinians use their new status to act against Israel. The Palestinians say they need U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, the lands Israel captured in 1967, to be able to resume negotiations with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

lines as starting point while pressing ahead with settlement construction, leaving Abbas little incentive to resume negotiations. Israel goes to elections in January, and polls indicate Netanyahu has a strong chance of winning.

Israel argues that Abbas is trying to dictate the outcome of border talks by going to the U.N., though the recognition request presented to the world body calls for a quick resumption of negotiations on all core issues of the conflict, including borders. □

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Twin car bombs near Damascus kill 34

ALBERT AJI

ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Two suicide bombers detonated their explosives packed vehicles near a cluster of commercial buildings in a suburb of Damascus Wednesday, killing at least 34 people and covering the street with pools of blood and debris. The latest carnage to hit an area populated by religious minorities who support Presi-

The morning rush hour bombings in the suburb of Jaramana, just few kilometers (miles) south-east of Damascus, were the latest to hit the overwhelmingly pro-regime town. The twin blasts appeared designed to maximize damage and casualties and bore the hallmarks of radical Muslim groups fighting alongside other rebel units in Syria. Witnesses said the second

curity installations. Wednesday's bombs went off in a parking lot near commercial buildings as groups of laborers and employees were arriving for work, killing 34 and injuring 83 people, state-run news agency SANA said. The blasts sent people fleeing in panic, shattering windows and littering the streets with glass, debris and pools of blood. Several commercial buildings were damaged, and dozens of cars were reduced to smoldering wreckage.

Ismail Zlaiaa, a 54-year-old resident of the neighborhood, said the area was packed with rush-hour passengers when the suicide bombers struck. "God will not forgive the criminal perpetrators," he said. Ibtissam Nseir, a 45-year-old teacher, said the bombs exploded minutes before she set off for work. She said there were no troops around the district and wondered why the attackers would target it. She blamed the rebels.

"Is this the freedom which they want?" she asked. Syria's conflict started 20 months ago as an uprising against Assad, whose family has ruled the country for four decades. It quickly morphed into a civil war, with rebels taking up arms to fight back against a bloody crackdown by the government. According to activists, at least 40,000 people have been killed since March 2011. Opposition fighters are predominantly members of the Sunni Muslim majority. □



A Syrian soldier, right, and citizens gather at an alley that was destroyed by two cars bombs, at Jaramana neighborhood, in the suburb of Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012.
(AP Photo/SANA)

dent Bashar Assad further raises concerns of a growing Islamic militant element among the forces seeking to topple him. In the country's north, rebels claimed to have shot down a Syrian air force fighter jet, providing further evidence of their growing effectiveness and improved military capabilities. It was not immediately clear how the MiG-23 was downed, although activists and the Turkish state-run Anadolu news agency said it was most likely brought down by a missile.

explosion went off after people rushed in to help those injured from the first blast, a tactic often used by al-Qaida in Iraq and elsewhere. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bombings, but Jabhat al-Nusra, an al-Qaida-inspired extremist group that has become one of Syria's most potent and organized rebel groups, has claimed numerous suicide bombings in the past, mostly targeting regime forces and se-



Russians celebrate on Red Square in Moscow, with Kremlin's Spassky Tower right, and St. Basil Cathedral in background left. An Islamist terrorist who plotted to organize suicide bombings on Moscow's iconic Red Square on New Year's eve has been sentenced to 15 years in jail.
(AP Photo/Misha Japaridze)

Red Square bomb plotter Saidov gets 15 years in jail

MANSUR MIROVALEV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A man whose plot to cause carnage on Moscow's iconic Red Square was thwarted by a spam phone message that prematurely detonated a bomb was sentenced Wednesday to 15 years in jail. Ilyas Saidov, a member of an underground Islamist group, brought explosives-laden belts disguised as heaters for two female suicide bombers on a bus from his native Dagestan, a southern province in the Caucasus region plagued by almost daily clashes between Islamists and federal forces. But just hours before they were to detonate the bombs on New Year's Eve, 2010, a belt attached to a cell-phone exploded after the detonator was activated by a spam message, killing one of the women and prompting the arrest of the other.

She was sentenced to 10 years in jail in May. Spam is a daily nuisance for many Russians buying new SIM cards but this time the message saved thousands from being in harm's way, authorities said. Red Square is a popular gathering point for Muscovites to see in the new year. The Moscow City Court also found Saidov guilty of gunning down two police officers and three civilians in Dagestan. Saidov pleaded guilty and cooperated with investigators, giving up the leader and several members of an underground Islamist group he was part of. His testimony led to the killing of several Islamists. Four members of the group have been convicted, and six more are currently standing trial, investigators said. Since 2000, at least two dozen female suicide bombers, most of them from the Caucasus, have carried out terrorist attacks on security officers and civilians in Russian cities and aboard trains and planes. □

Merkel's election schedule weighs on Greek bailout

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's upcoming re-election battle is shaping Europe's response to bailing out debt-ridden Greece.

Her strategy: Do just enough to keep Greece afloat but spare German voters — for now — the news that even more of their money will be required to get the Greeks back on their feet.

Merkel has led Europe's biggest economy since 2005. The greatest risk to her re-election bid, pollsters and analysts say, is a dramatic worsening of Europe's debt crisis — such as Greece exiting the eurozone, or a Greek debt write-off costing billions in German taxpayer money.

A deal reached Tuesday by the 17 nations that use the euro is a patchwork of measures to plug new shortfalls in Greece's budget and trim its debt load over the coming years. But it stopped



Greece's Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, right, and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel speak after their statements to the media at the Maximos mansion in Athens. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's upcoming re-election battle is shaping Europe's response to bailing out debt-ridden Greece.

(AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

short of forgiving some of the country's debt — having eurozone creditors like Germany take a so-called "haircut." "Greece's debt is not sustainable, even with the new measures, so the problem will be back in 2014 at the latest," said Christoph Weil, an econo-

mist with Commerzbank. But losing more money on rescuing the Greeks and other economically weak European Union nations could be politically toxic in Germany, where Merkel faces a national election in September. So far, Merkel's hard-nosed approach to

Europe's debt crisis has bolstered her popularity at home. "Ms. Merkel doesn't want to stand in front of her voters and tell them that the Greek rescue will cost taxpayers a couple of billions," Weil added. Many economists say that Greece's debt burden — forecast to reach some 190 percent of gross domestic product next year — can only be managed by writing off more government loans. But Merkel and German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble were the most outspoken opponents

of such a step, instead insisting on austerity measures and structural reforms. "A haircut is urgently necessary. This constant strategy of muddling through instead of tackling the problem won't work in the long run," Weil said. Greece is currently heading into its sixth consecutive year of a deep recession with unemployment hovering around 25 percent. Tuesday's deal forecasts that Greece's debt will shrink to 124 percent in 2020 and "sustainably less" than 110 percent only two years later. □

Constitution deadline looms in Egypt

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
© 2012 New York Times

CAIRO — Courts and factions engaged in a frantic last-minute scramble Wednesday in a struggle for power over the culmination of Egypt's political transition after the ouster of Hosni Mubarak. The two highest appellate courts went on strike, the Supreme Constitutional Court accused the president of blackmail, the Islamist leaders of the constitutional assembly rushed to complete the charter by the end of the day, and the Muslim Brotherhood called for a major demonstration Saturday to show off its own political muscle.

The dueling marked an escalation in a conflict pitting Egypt's Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi, against the country's courts and a galvanized opposition in the streets. The uproar was set off by Morsi's attempt six days ago to declare his own edicts above judicial scrutiny and thus eliminate the last check on his power until the approval of a new con-

stitution. But Morsi's gambit and the ensuing backlash are all aimed at the looming deadline of Sunday, when the Supreme Constitutional Court is expected to issue a ruling that could dissolve the constitutional assembly.

Morsi has said he meant to head off the possibility that the Supreme Constitutional Court might dissolve the constitutional assembly before it can complete its work. Courts have already dissolved the recently elected Parliament, as well as an earlier constitutional assembly. Judges on the constitutional court were picked by Mubarak, and some are considered political loyalists.

The constitutional assembly, which intends to wrap up a draft constitution by Thursday, may produce a document that could be sent to a referendum even if the court dissolves the assembly, unless the court seeks to strike down the draft along with the assembly.

Meanwhile, the Court of Cassation and the Cairo Appeals Court announced Wednesday that they were joining a national judges strike in protest of Morsi's decree. In the Egyptian judicial system, the two panels are the highest courts for appeals. Their judges are selected by their peers on the basis of seniority and accomplishment, so they cannot be dismissed as Mubarak loyalists.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Constitutional Court fired back at the president in its first statement since his decree. "The constitutional court has been under a fierce, unjust and organized attack" since it dissolved the Parliament, Judge Maher Sami said in a televised statement.

"The court will not be deterred by threats, menace or blackmail and will not yield to any pressures," he said, adding, "It's ready to stand up to all this no matter how high the cost, even if the price is the lives of its judges." □



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AROUND THE WORLD

Dutch psychologist sorry for fraud

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch social psychologist issued a public apology Wednesday after an inquiry found he faked or manipulated data in at least 55 publications. Diederik Stapel said in a statement aired on the national broadcaster NOS he had "failed as a scientist" for perpetrating one of the worst cases of scientific fraud on record in the Netherlands. But commissions set up to investigate his fraud at three universities, which first came to light last year, concluded it was not only Stapel who failed, but also the academic research community culture which allowed "this large-scale fraud ... to go unnoticed for so long." □

Iran flaunts warships near Hormuz

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's state TV is showcasing additions to its Navy including a missile-launching warship around the size of a frigate. Navy officials watched as the domestically-produced Sina-7, equipped with anti-ship missiles, was launched Wednesday at Bandar Abbas, near the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Two new Iranian-built Ghadir submarines and two repaired hovercrafts were also delivered to the Navy. The TV quoted Navy chief Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari as saying that Iran must possess the "newest technology and top-grade facilities to protect its borders." Ghadir class submarines can fire missiles and torpedoes at the same time, and can operate in the Persian Gulf's shallow waters. □

French senate rejects 2013 budget

PARIS (AP) — The French senate has rejected the 2013 budget after abstention by communists allowed the conservative opposition to scuttle the bill. The vote late Wednesday means the bill goes back to the lower house of parliament for further debate. Conservatives, who are a minority in both chambers and are embroiled in a catastrophic leadership battle of their own, still managed to outvote ruling Socialists over a budget they say needs more spending cuts and fewer tax increases. The 2013 budget includes an infamous pledge to tax the ultra-rich at 75 percent, and represents a major backtrack for President Francois Hollande. □

Thousands flee Panamanian floods

AROUND THE WORLD — Authorities in Panama say at least 1,570 homes have been damaged or destroyed by flooding from heavy rains over the weekend. Ivan Batista of the Panamanian Red Cross says backhoes and bulldozers are being used to remove earth from a mudslide that may have buried two Red Cross workers. Batista said Tuesday that the two workers disappeared late Sunday when the rains and a mudslide washed out the road they were traveling on. National Civil Defense Director Arturo Alvarado said that about 6,500 people have been forced from their homes along the Caribbean coast. Rivers in the region overflowed their banks, damaging homes, roads and bridges. □

Putin set to visit Turkey after break

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin says Vladimir Putin will visit Turkey next week, a trip that follows an unusual break in the Russian president's travel that has fueled speculation about his health. Putin's office announced Wednesday that the one-day visit to Istanbul Monday will focus on economic issues. Putin was expected to visit Turkey in October, but he postponed that and several other foreign trips, and spent most of the past two months at his suburban residence, visiting the Kremlin only rarely. The hiatus in travel has triggered a swirl of rumors about Putin's condition. One newspaper report claimed Putin had injured his back in his flight with Siberian cranes in a hang glider in September. □

Tibetan protests against Chinese rule reach dangerous new phase

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Two dozen Tibetans have set themselves on fire in western China this month in a dramatic acceleration of the protests against authoritarian Chinese rule, activist groups say.

The surge in self-immolations, along with an increase in large demonstrations, mark a new phase in the Tibetan protests.

At least 86 people have

clination to respond positively to recommendations for reform from the outside or Tibetans," said Michael Davis, a law professor and expert on Tibet at the University of Hong Kong.

In the latest immolation, 24-year-old Kalsang Kyab doused himself with kerosene and set himself alight Tuesday in front of local government offices in Kyangtsa in Aba prefecture, a hotbed of unrest, according to London-based Free

firsthand information from the area is extremely difficult to obtain. Authorities have not commented on the protest. Calls to the medical school rang unanswered Wednesday.

Driving the students to protest was a booklet distributed by authorities that derided the Tibetan language as irrelevant, attacked the exiled Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama, and condemned the immolation protests by Tibetans as



An exiled Tibetan jumps on a burning Chinese flag during a protest rally to express solidarity with Tibetans who have self-immolated and to appeal for immediate international intervention in New Delhi, India, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. At least 86 people have set themselves on fire since the immolations began in 2009.

(AP Photo/Altat Qadri)

set themselves on fire since the immolations began in 2009. In a change in recent months, most self-immolators now are lay people — some of them acting together — rather than Buddhist monks and nuns who can be more closely watched by the authorities because they live in tightly monitored monasteries.

The protests have also sought to avoid direct attacks on authorities and government property, acts used in past to label them as riots or terrorism, providing an excuse for greater oppression. Despite the altered approach, observers see little short-term possibility of Beijing changing its repressive policies.

"I think the problem will just escalate over time. The government shows no in-

Tibet and other groups.

An Aba official said Wednesday he was aware of the immolations but refused to give any details before hanging up.

On Monday, about 1,000 students at a Tsoho Medical Institute staged a bold protest about 900 kilometers (550 miles) to the north in Hainan prefecture in Qinghai province. Riot police fired shots into the air and released tear gas and beat the students with rifle butts, sending 20 students to the hospital, some with serious injuries, Free Tibet reported. Four students were detained as of Tuesday, according to U.S.-funded broadcaster Radio Free Asia. Tibetan and surrounding ethnically Tibetan regions have been closed off to most outsiders, and

"acts of stupidity."

The booklet is the latest in a series of perceived slights and intrusive measures by Chinese authorities that have left Tibetans feeling that the culture, language and Buddhist religion that are at the core of their identity are under threat. The feelings have also driven the immolations.

The combination of immolations and large-scale protests is posing a new challenge for security forces, which have been stationed in large numbers in Tibetan areas in recent years. The surge in self-immolations represents an awareness of the impact they are having among the Tibetan community and internationally, said Robbie Barnett, a Tibet expert at New York's Columbia University. □

Colombia to no longer heed World Court on borders

CESAR GARCIA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Smarting from a World Court decision that cost Colombia some territorial waters, President Juan Manuel Santos said Wednesday that his government would no longer recognize the court's jurisdiction in territorial disputes.

Legal experts, however, said Santos' announcement was unlikely, in practice, to diminish the court's authority in any international disputes involving the South American nation.

"The decision I've made obeys a fundamental prin-



Colombia's Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin speaks during a press conference in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. Holguin said the country will no longer recognize World Court jurisdiction on territorial disputes.

(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

cial: The borders between states should be fixed by the states themselves," Santos said while opening a meeting of coffee growers in Bogota.

He was reacting to a Nov. 19 decision by the International Court of Justice in the Hague that his government has been railing against as unjust and erroneous.

The ruling affirmed Colombian sovereignty over a Caribbean archipelago off Nicaragua but said some waters around the islands belong to the Central American nation.

Those waters are valued for potential oil and gas de-

posits beneath them, and Santos, under pressure from environmentalists, had announced a moratorium on exploratory drilling in them. After the court's ruling, Nicaraguan officials said they would study exploration.

The court's decision affecting the San Andres and Providencia archipelago is final and not subject to appeal.

International legal experts said Santos' announcement would not, in practice, exempt Colombia from the jurisdiction of the World Court, as it is recognized as the arbiter of last resort under customary international law and practice.

What Santos announced was that Colombia would remove itself from the 1948 Pact of Bogota, a treaty that recognizes the World Court's jurisdiction to resolve international disputes in general, not just territorial disputes.

Santos said his government notified the Organization of American States on Tuesday of its withdrawal from the treaty.

He said the decision does not mean that Colombia "intends to remove itself from mechanisms of peaceful solution to controversies."

Matthew Brotmann, a professor of international law at Pace University Law School in the United States, said erasing Colombia's obligations under the 1948 treaty is not so simple as the country likely has laws and international obligations that adhere to its terms.

He said he doesn't think Santos stands to gain anything for Colombia from Wednesday's announcement other than burnishing his domestic political image.

"In my opinion, although he may say that they no longer are going to recognize the jurisdiction of the court, it doesn't really matter," Brotmann said.

"Countries can't really pick and choose what parts of a treaty that they've already ratified they want to be held to." □

Bolivia arrests 7 in jailed American's case

IFRANK BAJAK
PAOLA FLORES
Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Six more Bolivian government officials were arrested on Tuesday, including a top Interior Ministry official, for alleged roles in a scheme to rob and extort a New York businessman who has been jailed for 18 months on suspicion of money laundering.

The American, Jacob Ostreicher, has argued since shortly after his arrest that he has been the victim of corrupt Bolivian officials who conspired to keep him in jail so they could sell off the 18,000 metric tons of rice they confiscated from him and extort him in exchange for promises to obtain his release.

"It was deliberate, premeditated and the plan was to take everything away from me," Ostreicher told The Associated Press on Tuesday. He named as the "ring-leader" of the alleged conspiracy the director of legal affairs in the Interior Ministry, Fernando Rivera, who was arrested Tuesday in the eastern state of Tarija while on government business. Officials who announced the arrests did not offer details other than to say those detained were suspected of crimes including illegal enrichment and extortion.

Ostreicher accused Rivera, the seventh official arrested in the case, of seeking a \$50,000 bribe in order to secure his release from prison. He also accused Rivera of intimidating judges and prosecutors to keep

mediately reach Rivera for comment.

The other officials arrested in the case since Monday include a former top official in the presidential ministry, a judge who initially ordered Ostreicher freed last



U.S. businessman Jacob Ostreicher, right, talks to his attorney Abel Montano at a local courthouse in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. A high-ranking Bolivian official in the Presidential Ministry, Jose Manuel Antezana, was arrested Monday, Nov. 26, 2012 for alleged illegal enrichment from the sale of rice seized from Ostreicher who has been jailed for 18 months after his arrest in a money-laundering investigation but no evidence has been presented in court to support the case against him.

(AP Photo/File)

him in jail despite a lack of evidence supporting the money-laundering allegations.

As director of legal affairs in the Interior Ministry, Rivera oversees major prosecutions, which include drug-trafficking cases. Bolivia is the world's No. 3 cocaine producer and also a major transit country for Peruvian cocaine.

The AP was unable to im-

mediately reach Rivera for comment. Although a subordinate of

year only to reverse himself, and three officials of DIR-

ROMERO, Rivera preceded him in the Interior Ministry, having been hired by a previous minister.

The former presidential ministry official, Jose Manuel Antezana, allegedly received a \$9,900 commission from the illegal sale of some of Ostreicher's rice, which was sold while ostensibly in DIRCABI's possession.

Independent political analyst Roberto Laserna said that Ostreicher had, unfortunately, suffered from an affliction that Bolivians have also experienced: an inefficient, corruption-ridden legal system and a "counter-drug law that instead of presuming innocence, locks people up without any rights and seizes their assets, which later disappear."

"If the government wants to clean up its image it should arrest all involved," he said. Ostreicher has been jailed without charge since June 2011 in the eastern lowlands city of Santa Cruz. The city is Bolivia's commercial center in its agricultural heartland but is also a nexus of cocaine trafficking. Prosecutors have yet to produce evidence supporting their allegations he laundered drug money in a rice-growing venture in which he and a Swiss partner invested \$25 million. □



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30% of homes in Brazil lack basic services

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's statistics agency says more than 30 percent of the country's households lack basic services such as running water and garbage collection. That's down from 38 per-

cent 10 years ago but still represents around 16 million households. The IBGE statistics agency released the study with the data on Wednesday. The situation is the worst in the country's poorer, less

developed north, where only one in five households has basic services. In the more developed south, only one in ten households lack such services. The study says 4.8 million

children aged 14 or under grow up in such a household, making up one in 10 Brazilian kids. The study adds that nearly half of all Brazilian children live in a household with inadequate basic services. □

Argentina tries pilots of alleged 'death flights'

A. CALATRAVA
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina
(AP) — The "death flights" were among the more macabre innovations of Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship.

The military planes that flew out over the wide Rio de la Plata and back returned missing many of their passengers: political prisoners who were drugged to sleep and thrown alive into the sea. A group of pilots who allegedly flew the missions are among the 68 suspects who went on trial Wednesday, charged with participating in hundreds of kidnappings, tortures and murders inside Argentina's Naval Mechanics School. The leafy campus, which is now a human rights museum, served as a huge clandestine prison during the junta's campaign to eliminate leftist subversives. More than 5,000 political prisoners were processed there, the vast majority of them made to disappear. The new trial is the third involving the school, and the biggest yet, involving a total of 789 victims. The suspects include some dictatorship-era officials who have already been convicted and are serving life terms, such as former Capt. Alfredo Astiz, known as the "Angel of Death" for his work delivering dissidents to the junta as an undercover agent. The pilots include Julio Poch, who was extradited from Spain after a long career flying commercial jets in Europe; retired coast guard officers Enrique Jose De Saint y Georges Mario Daniel Arru, who both flew for Aerolineas Argentinas after the dictatorship; and retired navy aviator Emir Sisul Hess. □

US envoy pledges continued support to Honduras

MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser said Wednesday the U.S. wants to see "tangible progress" in protecting human rights in Honduras.

After meeting Honduran President Porfirio Lobo in Tegucigalpa on Wednesday, adviser Denis McDonough said "the fight against violent crime and impunity cannot be conducted at the expense of human rights."

The United States is withholding \$50 million, about half of its aid to Honduras, due to concerns by some members of Congress about ongoing military and police corruption, assassinations of journalists and lawyers and a dysfunctional criminal justice system.

The U.S. resumed sharing radar intelligence with Honduras last week after a four-month stand-down prompted by repeated shootdowns of civilian aircraft suspected of drug

trafficking. During that suspension, Honduran pilots were re-trained, standard operating procedures were revised and Honduran authorities signed a new promise not to damage, destroy, disable or threaten civilian aircraft in the skies.

McDonough pledged ongoing support to Honduras, and said in no other time in recent memory "has our engagement been so robust." Honduran Foreign Minister Arturo Corrales said U.S. support is welcome. "Our talks were very productive and we identified short and long-term measures," Corrales told reporters after the meeting. "We spoke about legacies and how we can create bridges so that others who come can do the same." McDonough was accompanied by Kathleen Hicks, a deputy undersecretary for defense, and William Brownfield, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for law enforcement



Honduras President Porfirio Lobo waves at journalists during a police ceremony in Bogotá, Colombia, Friday, Nov. 2, 2012.
(AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

and counternarcotics. They visited Honduras this week after meetings in Colombia. In Tegucigalpa, the U.S. team also met with mem-

bers of Lobo's cabinet and civil society representatives, discussing economic development, citizen security and human rights. □

Venezuelan military aircrafts crash at event

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A Chinese-made training airplane crashed during an air force flying exhibition on Tuesday and the military helicopter sent to rescue the pilots also went down, authorities said. The two pilots in the K-8 aircraft successfully ejected

before the crash and none of the crew of the Cougar helicopter were injured, authorities said. Venezuela's information minister, Ernesto Villegas, said the Chinese-made plane plummeted to the ground near a military parade at Libertador Air Base in the

central state of Aragua. He said in a message posted on his Twitter account that the cause of the crash was mechanical failure and it occurred as pilots participated in an exhibition to celebrate the anniversary of Venezuela's air force. Venezuela's Air Search and

Rescue Service announced that a Cougar helicopter also crashed during an operation to rescue the pilots. The crashes occurred five days after two Bronco airplanes collided near the same airbase, killing one of three pilots involved in the accident. □



Westin associates raise funds for local cancer foundation



PALM BEACH -- Associates of the Westin Resort, Aruba and the Palm Beach Casino opened their hearts and wallets during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, donating a portion of their salaries via a payroll deduction in support of local organization Stichting Koningin Wilhelmina Fond.

A total donation was collected in the amount of 5,000 florins, and was presented to the foundation last Friday during the resort's annual health fair for associates. The health fair, coordinated by the Human Resources team, is part of an overall philosophy of promoting physical and mental wellbeing

for associates through healthy lifestyle choices. Some of the local companies and organizations on-hand to provide information and counseling included Etnika Day Spa, Berkenstick, Body Combat, FAVI, Herbalife, Price Smart, Xtreme Training Club, and Intermezzo Optica Aruba. □

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Beauty On The Beach

Heather Ravelli

She is staying at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. It is her first visit and she mentioned it will not be her last, she will come back next year. What she love the most of Aruba is the Friendliness of the locals.

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Amazonia Churrascaria hosts a festive birthday party



Palm Beach -- Ineke Flanegin organized the festivities on behalf of her two sisters, their kids, the in-laws, aunts, friends and family members on the occasion of the patriarch's birthday. Grandpa was feted in great style by his loving daughters and the grandchildren enjoying a good time over an endless assortment of salads and perfectly grilled meats. The animated party spilled over from the bar room to the wine vault, as grandpa was congratulated on his special day by more than 45 family members, definitely something to be proud of! □



Aruba deploys digital alert radio equipment

Radio stations in Anguilla, Aruba, Montserrat and Sint Maarten have deployed Digital Alert Systems' DASDEC-II emergency messaging platforms to provide alerts. These alert systems allow stations to broadcast warnings and instructions in emergencies, and these installations were made possible through a contract awarded by the United Nations Development Project. "These Caribbean island nations are highly vulnerable to various natural hazards, which can be particularly dangerous for populations, business and infrastructure in low-lying coastal areas," said Ed Czarnecki, Digital Alert Systems senior director for strategy and regulatory affairs. "Advanced DASDEC-II alert systems significantly increase these nations' ability to safeguard the public through weather and public-safety alerts and warnings." Radio stations in these countries use the DASDEC-II to monitor authorized sources for hazards and to send digital warning messages. When crises arise, messages are transmitted to the DASDEC-II, which then overrides the programming with an alert tone, followed by an automated voice message providing information and instructions. These installations mark the company's latest international deployments, and although the common alerting protocol (CAP) format being used by Anguilla, Aruba, Montserrat and Sint Maarten differs from the format in the United States and Canada, the DASDEC-II was easily integrated. The DASDEC is the United States' first FCC-certified Emergency Alert System (EAS) encoder/decoder capable of receiving and transmitting digital CAP messaging, and it is already widely utilized by TV and radio stations across the U.S. □



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Aruba Airlines starts operations to São Paulo, Brazil

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airlines will start its activities in Brazil with a direct flight on the stretch between Oranjestad, the island's capital, and São Paulo, on December 14.

The first few months the company will exclusively operate charter flights. In February the company is expected to launch a scheduled flight service to the same destination.

For the remainder of 2012 and the first month or so of 2013, the company will offer one flight per week on the route. The weekly flight is scheduled to depart on Fridays at 19.30 hours from Aruba, and expected to arrive on Saturday morn-

ing at 03:25 a.m. local time at São Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport. On its return flight the Aruba Airlines aircraft will land in Aruba on the same day, departing from Guarulhos International Airport an hour after landing.

From February 2013 on, Aruba Airlines will start a scheduled service, operating two weekly flights. According to the company plans Aruba can serve as a hub for connecting flights to some American cities such as Miami, New York and Boston as well as to Panama.

The aircraft that will be used for the flights to São Paulo for the route is the



Airbus A320-300. The Airbus A320-300 is configured to provide 132 seats of which 120 pertain to the economy class and 12 in business class. □

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95
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www.driftwoodaruba.com
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Former Houston Astros great Craig Biggio speaks at a press conference about being on the ballot for the 2013 class of the Baseball Hall of Fame Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, in Houston. The All Star catcher turned second baseman had over 3,000 during his career.
Associated Press

Bonds, Sosa, Clemens on Hall ballot for first time

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer
NEW YORK (AP) -- The most polarizing Hall of Fame debate since Pete Rose will now be decided by the baseball shrine's voters: Do Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa belong in Cooperstown despite drug allegations that tainted their huge numbers?

In a monthlong election sure to become a referendum on the Steroids Era, the Hall ballot was released Wednesday, and Bonds, Clemens and Sosa are on it for the first time.

Bonds is the all-time home run champion with 762 and won a record seven MVP awards. Clemens took home a record seven Cy Young trophies and is ninth with 354 victories. Sosa ranks eighth on the homer chart with 609.

Yet for all their HRs, RBIs and Ws, the shadow of PEDs looms large.

Continued on Page 20



Ban looms on long and belly putters

In this Sept. 22, 2011, file photo, Keegan Bradley putts on the third green during the first round of the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta. Webb Simpson and Keegan Bradley, two of the major faces in the debate over belly putters, said Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, they would not fight a change in the rules if golf's governing bodies decide to outlaw putters anchored to the body.
Associated Press
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Why isn't Marvin Miller in Cooperstown?

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

There are times when baseball is so grand, so worthy of awe.

Then there are times when it is so small, so petty.

Like the way it treated the legacy of Marvin Miller.

He died on Tuesday at the age of 95, having lived not only a long life, but one filled with great purpose and accomplishment. He should be remembered as one of the three most influential figures in Major League Baseball.

Yet Miller is not in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown.

Why? Because the union chief was too good at his job, and at least some of the men who run the sport still resent the way he dragged them into a truly modern era, kicking and screaming all the way.

"RIP Marvin Miller," tweeted former Atlanta Braves outfielder Dale Murphy, a two-time National League MVP in the 1980s. "Never did thank him personally



This April 13, 1972 file photo shows Marvin Miller, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, announcing an end to the baseball strike at a news conference in New York. Associated Press

for what he did for me and the Murphy family and for all baseball players. Should have."

While many have contributed to MLB's long, impressive legacy, three really stand out:

— Babe Ruth, the boister-

ous slugger who essentially forged the game that is played today. Of course, he's in the Hall of Fame.

— Jackie Robinson, the brave man who crashed through the color barrier to make the U.S. pastime truly national. Naturally, he's in

the Hall of Fame.

— Then there's Miller, who unshackled the players from a career of servitude to the owners.

He's NOT in the Hall of Fame.

What an injustice.

Before Miller came along,

a player was expected to perform at whatever salary the owner deemed was fair. As you can imagine, the figure tended to be one that guaranteed the owner had a steady supply of dollars to light his cigars, while the player had just enough money to get by on until the season was over. Then, of course, he could find another job to keep food on the table until spring training.

If the players didn't like this arrangement, well, tough. The owners had a most un-American ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in their hip pocket, the 1922 decision upholding the "reserve clause," which essentially bound employee to employer for the length of his career, unless he was traded or released. There was no real power of negotiation, unless you were one of the biggest stars and could threaten a holdout. Even then, the owners essentially held all the cards.

Miller changed that.

After taking over as executive director of the Major League Players Association in 1966, he made it his mission to get rid of the reserve clause, to ensure that players had the freedom to sell their services to the highest bidder when their contract was up — essentially, like any employee who gets a better offer from another company.

That, of course, led to a remarkable boon in player salaries. In 1967, the average was \$19,000 a year. By the time Miller retired in 1982, it had climbed to \$241,497. This past season, it was around \$3.4 million, and anyone who made a big league roster was guaranteed a minimum of \$480,000. □

LHP Andy Pettitte and Yankees reach 1-year deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) -- Andy Pettitte is staying with the New York Yankees next season.

The left-hander signed a one-year deal with the Yankees worth \$12 million on Wednesday, putting baseball's biggest postseason winner back in pinstripes.

Pettitte turns 41 in June. He retired after the 2010 season, then decided to come back this year and signed a contract guaranteeing \$2.5 million.

Pettitte went 5-4 with a 2.87 ERA in 12 starts. He missed almost three months because of a broken lower left leg, sustained when he was hit by a line drive off the bat of Cleveland's Casey Kotchman on June 27.

The AL East champions have a projected rotation of CC Sabathia, Hiroki Kuroda, Phil Hughes, Ivan Nova and Pettitte for next year.

Pettitte is 245-142 lifetime with the Yankees and Houston in 17 seasons. He is 19-11 in the postseason.



New York Yankees starting pitcher Andy Pettitte throws to the Baltimore Orioles during Game 2 of the American League division baseball series on Monday, Oct. 8, 2012, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

The Yankees designated catcher Eli Whiteside for assignment. □

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Long putters to go belly up in rule change

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) —

Golf's governing bodies, worried that players will turn to long putters as an advantage instead of a last resort, proposed a new rule banning the putting stroke used by three of the last five major champions. The Royal & Ancient Golf Club and the U.S. Golf Association said on Wednesday the rule would not outlaw belly putter or broom-handle putters, only the way they are currently used. The proposed rule would make it illegal for golfers to anchor the club while making a stroke and not take effect until 2016.

"More players are using it, and instructors are saying this is a more efficient way to putt because you don't have to control the whole stroke," USGA executive director Mike Davis said. "The game has been around for 600 years. Fundamentally, we don't think this is the right way to go."

Orville Moody won the 1989 U.S. Senior Open using a long putter that he held against his chest, allowing for a pendulum motion. Paul Azinger won the 2000 Sony Open with a putter that he pressed into his belly. Long putters began receiving serious attention last year when Keegan Bradley became the first player to win a major with a belly putter at the U.S. PGA Championship. This year, Webb Simpson won the U.S. Open and Ernie Els the British Open using belly putters. "Our objective is to preserve the skill and challenge," R&A chief executive Peter Dawson said. "This rule is

not performance related. This is about defining what is a stroke."

The long putters are not being banned. The rule relates to the actual stroke, not the equipment. Players can use a broom putter as long as it is not anchored to the chest.

Davis and Dawson said the catalyst for the new rule was not who was winning tournaments, but the number of players switching to long putters.

Their research showed no more than 4 percent of golfers used the clubs for several years. It went to 6 percent in 2006, and then to 11 percent in 2011, with some U.S. PGA Tour events having as much as 20 percent of the players using the long clubs. There was no empirical data to suggest a long putter made golf easier. Carl Pettersson (No. 21) and Bradley (No. 27) were the only players among the top 30 in putting this year on the U.S. PGA Tour who used long putters. "We don't think putting in an anchored way is easy. You have to learn how to do it," Dawson said. "But it takes one of the potential frailties out of the stroke. ... We have to retain the skill and challenge inherent in golf."

The R&A and USGA will take comments for three months on the proposed rule before it is approved. Because the Rules of Golf are updated every four years, any ban on the anchored stroke would not take effect for another four years. The U.S. PGA Tour, European Tour and U.S. LPGA Tour said they will evaluate the proposed rule with their

players. The PGA of America, meanwhile, said it was concerned that such a ban would drive people from the game.

"As our mission is to grow the game ... we are asking them to seriously consider the impact this proposed ban may have on people's enjoyment of the game and the overall growth of the game," PGA president Ted Bishop said.

The decision should be divisive at the highest level.

Tim Clark of South Africa and Pettersson have used broom putters for their entire careers, and they have suggested a new rule would affect their livelihoods. Els once mocked Vijay Singh for using a long putter, but then Els switched to a belly putter last year when his putting suffered.

"As long as it's legal, I'll cheat like the rest of them," he said.

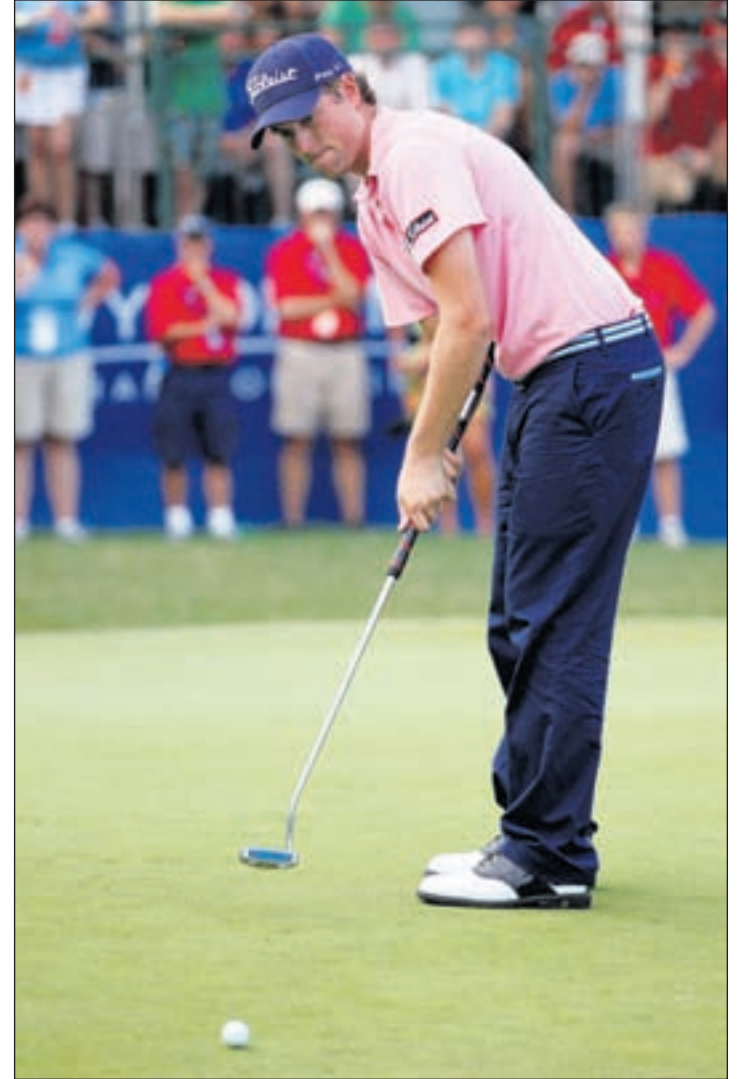
Davis said potential lawsuits were never considered.

"Shame on us if we're scared of litigation in doing the right thing," Davis said. Tiger Woods is among those who have been outspoken about anchored putters, saying it takes away from the nerves in the hands in trying to make putts.

"I just believe that the art of putting is swinging the club and controlling nerves," Woods said on Tuesday. "And having it as a fixed point, as I was saying all year, is something that's not in the traditions of the game. We swing all other 13 clubs.

I think the putter should be the same.

"One of the things that I was concerned about going forward is the kids who



In this Aug. 20, 2011, file photo, Webb Simpson putts on the 18th hole during the third round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C. Webb Simpson and Keegan Bradley, two of the major faces in the debate over belly putters, said Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, they would not fight a change in the rules if golf's governing bodies decide to outlaw putters anchored to the body. Associated Press

get started in the game and putt with an anchoring system. There have been some guys who have had success out here, and obviously everyone always copies what we do out here. And that's something that I think for the greater good of the game needs to be adjusted."

Jack Nicklaus recalls croquet-style putting was banned decades ago, and golf moved on. Even though far more golfers use long putters, he expects the same outcome.

"They'll all learn to adjust," Nicklaus told Golf Channel. "Like anything else, they'll get used to it and get over it. ... We've had changes with balls, wood heads,

groover, all kinds of changes. Players have adjusted to those and they'll adjust to this."

Adding to the attention was Guan Tianlang, the 14-year-old from China who used a belly putter this month when he won the Asia Pacific Amateur, which earned him a spot in the Masters. He will be the youngest player ever at Augusta National. Guan started using the belly putter about six months before his big win.

Davis said there has been a dramatic increase in anchored putting styles in the last two years at all levels — tour players, elite amateurs, all the way down to the junior level. □

Hall ballot

Continued from Page 17

"You could see for years that this particular ballot was going to be controversial and divisive to an unprecedented extent," Larry Stone of The Seattle Times wrote in an email. "My hope is that some clarity begins to emerge over the Hall of Fame status of those linked to performance-enhancing drugs. But I doubt it."

More than 600 longtime members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America will vote on the 37-player ballot. Candidates require 75 percent for induction, and the results will be announced Jan. 9.

Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling also are among the 24 first-time eligibles. Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Lincecum are the top holdover candidates.

If recent history is any indication, the odds are solidly stacked against Bonds, Clemens and Sosa. Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro both posted Cooperstown-caliber stats, too, but drug clouds doomed them in Hall voting.

Some who favor Bonds and Clemens claim the bulk of their accomplishments came before baseball got wrapped up in drug scan-



In this Aug. 24, 2007, file photo, San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, right, hits his 761st career home run, a solo effort, off Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Chris Capuano in the fourth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco.



In this July 23, 2007, file photo, New York Yankees starting pitcher Roger Clemens throws against Kansas City Royals' David DeJesus in the first inning of a baseball game in Kansas City, Mo. In this June 20, 2007,

dals. They add that PED use was so prevalent in the 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s that it's unfair to exclude anyone because so many who-did-and-who-didn't questions remain. Many fans on the other side say drug cheats - suspected or otherwise - should

never be afforded the game's highest individual honor.

Either way, this election is baseball's newest hot button, generating the most fervent Hall arguments since Rose. The discussion about Rose was moot, however - the game's ca-

reer hits leader agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation concluded he bet on games while managing the Cincinnati Reds, and that barred him from the BBWAA ballot. The BBWAA election rules allow voters to pick up to 10 candidates. As for criteria,

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa won't get a vote from Mike Klis of The Denver Post.

"Nay on all three. I think in all three cases, their performances were artificially enhanced. Especially in the cases of Bonds and Clemens, their production went up abnormally late in their



file photo, Texas Rangers' Sammy Sosa acknowledges cheers from fans after hitting his 600th career home run against the Chicago Cubs in a baseball game in Arlington, Texas. Sosa, Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds are set to show up on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012, and fans will soon find out whether drug allegations block the former stars from reaching baseball's shrine.

Associated Press

this is the only instruction: "Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played." That leaves a lot of room for interpretation.

careers," he wrote in an email. They'll do better with Bob Dutton of The Kansas City Star.

"I plan to vote for all three. I understand the steroid/PED questions surrounding each one, and I've wrestled with the implications," he wrote in an email. □

Ruiz suspended 25 MLB games after positive test

ROB MAADDI
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — All-Star catcher Carlos Ruiz has been suspended for the first 25 games in Major League Baseball next season following a positive test for an amphetamine.

Ruiz, the 33-year-old Philadelphia Phillies catcher, had a career year in 2012, hitting .325 with 16 homers and 68 RBIs in 114 games.

"I am sincerely regretful for my mistake in taking a prohibited stimulant," Ruiz said in a statement issued by the MLB Players Association on Tuesday. "I apologize to my teammates, the Phillies organization and the Philadelphia fans."



This is a 2008 file photo of Carlos Ruiz of the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team. Ruiz has been suspended for the first 25 games of next season following a positive test for an amphetamine in violation of Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

Associated Press

Ruiz will be eligible to participate in spring training, including exhibition games. Erik Kratz will likely begin the 2013 season as Philadelphia's starting catcher while Ruiz serves his suspension. Kratz, a career minor-leaguer, filled in nicely when he finally got a chance after Ruiz went

down with a foot injury. Kratz hit .248, but had nine doubles, nine homers and 26 RBIs in only 141 at-bats. Kratz also threw out 45 percent of base-stealers (15 of 33). Still, losing Ruiz hurts a lineup that struggled mightily last year. Ruiz moved up from his usual No. 8 spot and took over for an injured Ryan Howard as the team's cleanup hitter for a chunk of the season. He batted fifth after Howard returned in July. The Phillies, who finished 81-81 after winning five straight National League East titles, have several holes to fill. Only Howard, Chase Utley and Jimmy Rollins are certain regulars. □

NBA Capsules

Sixers hold off Mavericks to win 100-98

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Evan Turner scored 22 points and Thaddeus Young had 20 to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 100-98 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

Jrue Holiday had 18 points and seven assists for the Sixers, who snapped a six-game losing streak to Dallas. Philadelphia shot 6 of 14 on 3-pointers and won its second straight game.

Chris Kaman scored 20 points, and Elton Brand and Shawn Marion had 17 apiece for the Mavericks. Vince Carter added 15 and was clutch in the fourth quarter in trying to bring Dallas back from a 10-point hole.

The 76ers finally created some space in a back-and-forth game when they snapped a tie with a 10-0 run midway through the fourth.

Carter hit his third 3-pointer and then a left-handed layup to bring the Mavericks to 100-98 with 37 seconds left. O.J. Mayo missed two free throws with 2.7 seconds to go and Jae Crowder's last-gasp jumper was off the mark, leaving Dallas with a 2-5 record on the road.

PACERS 79, LAKERS 77 LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Hill's high-arching shot over Dwight Howard went in with 0.1 seconds left, and Indiana withstood Kobe Bryant's 40-point performance for Los Angeles. Hill scored 19 points and hit that enormous clutch shot for the Pacers, who won their third straight road game over the Lakers after losing 11 consecutive regular-season games since Staples Center opened in 1999.

The Pacers' sturdy defense stifled the Lakers' up-tempo offense for most of the night, turning the game into an ugly grind before the thrilling finish.

Bryant hit a tying 3-pointer with 24.5 seconds left and produced the 114th 40-point game of his career despite playing with an apparent case of the flu for

the Lakers, who dropped to 2-3 under new coach Mike D'Antoni.

David West scored 16 points in the opener of Indiana's four-game road trip. The Lakers flirted with the lowest-scoring game and worst shooting percentage in franchise history before scoring eight straight points in the waning minutes. Los Angeles finished 23 for 43 at the foul line.

SUNS 91, CAVALIERS 78 CLEVELAND (AP) — Goran Dragic scored 19 points, Michael Beasley added 15 and Phoenix took control late in the third quarter to beat Cleveland.

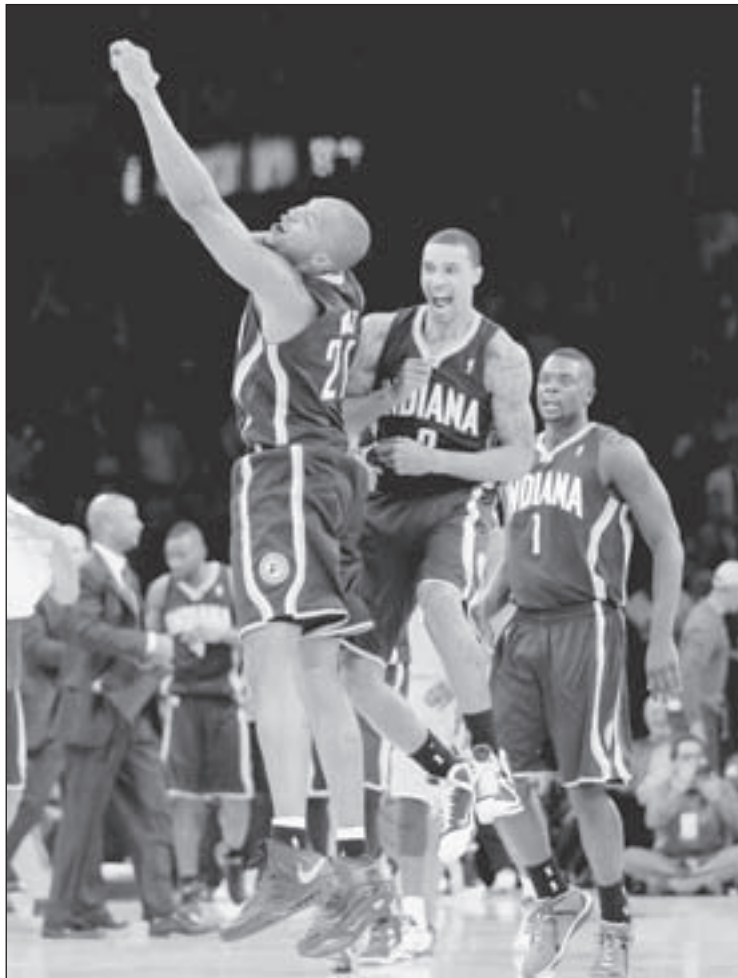
The Suns scored the final 14 points of the third to take a 71-59 lead they did not relinquish, sending Cleveland to its 10th loss in 11 games. Cavaliers center Anderson Varejao had 20 points and 18 rebounds for his sixth straight double-double. He came in leading the NBA in rebounding with a 14.7 average.

Cleveland was playing its fourth game in five nights. The Cavaliers shot 36 percent from the field against a Suns team that was giving up an NBA-worst 103.3 points per game. Cleveland played its fifth straight game without star point guard Kyrie Irving, out until mid-December with a broken left index finger. Backup shooting guard Daniel Gibson missed the game with a sore right elbow.

ROCKETS 117, RAPTORS 101 HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 24 points and matched a career high with 12 assists to lead Houston over Toronto. Patrick Patterson added 22 points for the Rockets, who have won four in a row. Omer Asik had 13 points and 18 rebounds.

Andrea Bargnani scored 21 points and Terrence Ross added a career-high 19 for the Raptors, who have lost five straight.

The Rockets planned to fly to Minneapolis immediately after the game to attend Wednesday's funeral for Sasha McHale, the 23-year-



Indiana Pacers' George Hill, right, and David West celebrate after Hill made a game-winning shot against the Los Angeles Lakers in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012. Hill's shot went in with 0.1 seconds left, as the Pacers won 79-77.

Associated Press

LeBron, Knicks top NBA jersey-sale lists

TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James is atop the NBA's jersey sales list again.

The Miami Heat star has the league's hottest-selling jersey, marking the third time the NBA's reigning MVP and Finals MVP has held that distinction. James was No. 4 in the most recent rankings, released in April.

Since then, all he's done is win his third league MVP award, a second Olympic gold medal and help the Heat win the NBA championship — the franchise's second and his first.

"It's an honor to be No. 1," said James, who last had the league's best-selling jersey in April 2011.

The league released its latest sales-rankings list on Wednesday, with the New York Knicks leading the team-sales category

for the first time since December 2004. On the players' list, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant checked in at No. 2, six spots higher than where he was in April and likely buoyed by the Thunder reaching the NBA Finals. Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers has the league's No. 3-selling jersey, followed by New York's Carmelo Anthony, Chicago's Derrick Rose, Boston's Rajon Rondo, Miami's Dwyane Wade, the Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin, the Lakers' Dwight Howard and the Clippers' Chris Paul at No. 10. Brooklyn's Deron Williams is No. 11, followed by Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, the Lakers' Steve Nash, Boston's Paul Pierce and Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki. Houston guard Jeremy Lin, whose former Knicks jersey was No. 2 in the April rankings, fell out

old daughter of coach Kevin McHale. Sasha McHale died on Saturday from complications of lupus. The team will then fly from Minneapolis to Oklahoma City to face the Thunder on Wednesday night — Harden's first game there since he was traded to Houston on Oct. 27.

TIMBERWOLVES 97, KINGS 89 SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Love had 23 points and an NBA season-high 24 rebounds to help Minnesota stop a five-game losing streak by beating Sacramento.

Love, who missed the first nine games of the season with a broken right hand, was a force inside all night for the Timberwolves, who took the lead late in the first quarter and never trailed again.

Tyreke Evans and DeMarcus Cousins each scored 20 points for the Kings.

Luke Ridnour scored 18 and Nikola Pekovic had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Timberwolves, who had fallen into a tailspin after starting the season 5-2. □



Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) and guard Dwyane Wade celebrate after they defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-108 in an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012, in Miami.

Associated Press

of the top 15. "I give all of the credit to the fans," said James, whose Cleveland jersey topped the league sales charts in 2004. "Let's keep it going." In team sales, the Knicks were No. 1, followed by the Heat, Lakers, Chicago (which was No. 1 in April), Boston, Oklahoma City, Brooklyn, the Clippers, San Antonio and Dallas. □

Get smart about antibiotics

Susan Salisbury

© 2012 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- When we're sick we want a quick cure. So we go to the doctor and ask for an antibiotic. Sometimes doctors give in to the pressure to prescribe an antibiotic, even though it's not going to work for every illness.

Every time a person takes antibiotics, sensitive bacteria are killed, but resistant germs may be left to grow and multiply. Repeated and improper uses of antibiotics are primary causes of the increase in drug-resistant bacteria, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Americans waste money every year purchasing antibiotics to fight the common cold and other viral infections, which antibiotics cannot cure. The drugs can cure bacterial infections.

The CDC says that \$1.1 billion is spent annually on unnecessary adult upper respiratory infection antibiotic prescriptions. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of antibiotics are unnecessarily prescribed.

Antibiotic resistance has been called one of the world's most pressing public health problems, and the best way to combat it, the CDC says, is not to take the medications when it's not necessary.

Antibiotic resistance is leading to higher treatment costs, longer hospital stays, and unnecessary deaths. The CDC estimates that nearly 100,000 people die from infections they pick up in the hospital every year. The vast majority are caused by bacteria that have developed resistance to the antibiotics used to treat them. □

FDA may find experts to study energy drinks

BARRY MEIER

© 2012 New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration said in a letter released Tuesday that it was likely to seek advice from outside experts to help determine whether energy drinks posed particular risks to teenagers or people with underlying health problems.

The letter appears to signal a change in the agency's approach to the drinks, which contain high levels of caffeine. Previously, FDA officials have said that they were investigating possible risks posed by popular products like 5-hour Energy, Monster Energy and Red Bull. But an agency spokeswoman, Shelly Burgess, said the new letter was the first time that the FDA had said it might turn to outside experts.

The FDA letter, which was released Tuesday by Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois and Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, follows disclosures that the agency received reports of 18 deaths and over 150 injuries that mentioned the possible involvement of energy drinks.

The filing of such reports with the FDA does not prove that a product was responsible for a death or an injury. Energy drink makers have said their products are safe and were not responsible for the health problems.

The officials said a review of the drinks might be "greatly enhanced by also engaging specialized expertise outside the FDA" They suggested they might seek that input from a panel of individuals or a group like the Institute of Medicine, which is part of the National Academy of Sciences. Industry analysts said the letter indicated that the FDA did not plan any immediate actions on energy drinks, an interpretation that set off a rally on Tuesday in the stock of Monster Beverage, the producer of Monster Energy. Company shares closed at \$51.97, up more than 13 percent. Any regulatory outcome is likely to be "benign," Judy Hong, an analyst at Goldman Sachs, said in a note to investors, according to Bloomberg News. □

Redefining personality disorders

BENEDICT CAREY

© 2012 New York Times

For years they have lived as orphans and outliers, a colony of misfit characters on their own island: the bizarre one and the needy one, the untrusting and the crooked, the grandiose and the cowardly.

Their customs and rituals are as captivating as any tribe's, and at least as mystifying. Every mental anthropologist who has visited their world seems to walk away with a different story, a new model to explain those strange behaviors.

This weekend the board of trustees of the American Psychiatric Association will

date its influential diagnostic manual – is intended to clarify these diagnoses and better integrate them into clinical practice, to extend and improve treatment. But the effort has run into so much opposition that it will probably be relegated to the back of the manual, if it's allowed in at all.

Dr. David J. Kupfer, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh and chairman of the task force updating the manual, would not speculate on which way the vote might go: "All I can say is that personality disorders were one of the first things we tackled, but that doesn't make

psychotic disorders, like schizophrenia, and mood problems, like depression or bipolar disorder.

Likewise, Freud spent years formulating his theories on the origins of neurotic syndromes. And Freudian analysts were largely the ones who, in the early decades of the last century, described people with the sort of "confounded identities" that are now considered personality disorders.

Their problems were not periodic symptoms, like moodiness or panic attacks, but issues rooted in long-standing habits of thought and feeling – in who they were.

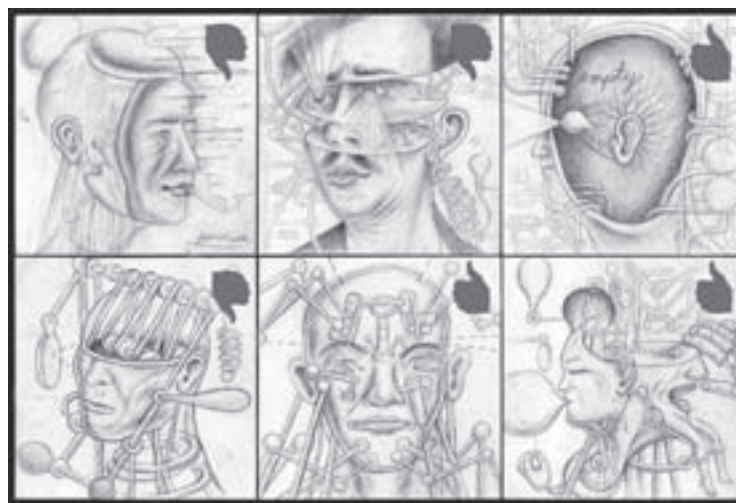
"These therapists saw people coming into treatment who looked well put-together on the surface but on the couch became very disorganized, very impaired," said Mark F. Lenzenweger, a professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Binghamton. "They had problems that were neither psychotic nor neurotic. They represented something else altogether." Several prototypes soon began to emerge.

The most central, memorable, and knowable element of any person – personality – still defies any consensus.

A team of experts appointed by the psychiatric association has worked for more than five years to find some unifying system of diagnosis for personality problems.

The panel proposed a system based in part on a failure to "develop a coherent sense of self or identity." Not good enough, some psychiatric theorists said.

For example, the team's final proposal for narcissistic personality disorder involved rating a person on four traits, including "manipulativeness," "histrionism" and "callousness." The proposed diagnostic system would be simpler, as well as "responsive to the array of diverse and sometimes contradictory suggestions made by other" personality disorders experts, wrote Dr. Andrew Skodol, a psychiatrist at the University of Arizona and chairman of the group proposing the new system, in a paper published last spring. □



A new proposal to clarify diagnoses of recognized personality disorders and better integrate them into clinical practice, to extend and improve treatment, is meeting resistance.

(Jonathon Rosen/The New York Times)

vote on whether to adopt a new diagnostic system for some of the most serious, and striking, syndromes in medicine: personality disorders.

Personality disorders occupy a troublesome niche in psychiatry. The 10 recognized syndromes are fairly well represented on the self-help shelves of bookstores and include such well-known types as narcissistic personality disorder, avoidant personality disorder, as well as dependent and histrionic personalities. But when full-blown, the disorders are difficult to characterize and treat, and doctors seldom do careful evaluations, missing or playing down behavior patterns that underlie problems like depression and anxiety in millions of people.

The new proposal – part of the psychiatric association's effort of many years to up-

it the easiest."

The exercise has forced psychiatrists to confront one of the field's most elementary, yet still unresolved, questions: What, exactly, is a personality problem? It wasn't supposed to be this difficult.

Personality problems aren't exactly new or hidden. They play out in Greek mythology, from Narcissus to the sadistic Ares. They percolate through biblical stories of madmen, compulsives and charismatics. They are writ large across the 20th century, with its rogues' gallery of vainglorious, murderous dictators.

Yet it turns out that producing precise, lasting definitions of extreme behavior patterns is exhausting work. It took more than a decade of observing patients before German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin could draw a clear line between



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Microsoft ads deride Google as bad place to shop

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Microsoft is trying to skewer Google as a lousy holiday shopping guide in its latest attempt to divert more traffic to its Bing search engine. The attack started Wednesday with a marketing campaign focused on a recent change in the way Google operates the part of its search engine devoted to shopping results. The revisions require merchants to pay Google to have their products listed in the shopping section.

In its new ads, Microsoft Corp. contends the new approach betrays Google Inc.'s longstanding commitment to provide the most trustworthy results on the Web, even if it means foregoing revenue. To punctuate its point, Microsoft is warning consumers that they risk getting "scroogled" if they rely on Google's shopping search service.

The message will be highlighted in TV commercials scheduled to run on NBC and CNN and newspaper ads in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. The blitz also will appear on billboards and online, anchored by a new website, Scroogled.com.

The barbs are likely to inject more antagonism into an already bitter rivalry between two of the world's best-known and most powerful technology companies.

Google's search engine is dominant on the Internet. Bing runs a distant second. Microsoft's Office and Windows software remains an integral part of personal computers, but Google has been reducing the importance of those programs and PCs with the success of

Microsoft's Scroogled website bashes Google's search results and encourages users to try Bing instead. (Microsoft)

Web-based services and its Android operating system for smartphones and tablet computers.

Google doesn't require websites to pay to be listed in its main database, the index that provides results for requests entered into its all-purpose search box. A query made there for a particular product, such as a computer, will still include results from merchants who haven't paid for the privilege of being included.

But that's not the case for someone who clicks on a tab to enter Google's shopping-only section, which is designed to compare prices and offer other insights such as identifying sites that offer free shipping. Searches there are confined to paying merchants. That means results from sites, including Web retailing giant Amazon.com Inc., aren't displayed unless they pay. Amazon has only occasionally paid to have some of its wares listed in Google's shopping section. Zappos, a site owned by Amazon, has been more willing to pay the price to be listed in Google's shopping results. Google defends the fee-based approach as a way to encourage merchants to provide more comprehensive and accurate information about what

they're selling.

"I think you just get a well-organized set of product information, ways to buy it, and really have a great experience there," CEO Larry Page said during a conference call with analysts last month. In a statement, Google said it's pleased with the response to the new shopping system, which offers listings from some 100,000 sellers.

Google, like Microsoft, also accepts payments for ads that are triggered by specific search terms and appear to the right or on top of regular search results. Those are labeled in colored letters as ads. The same distinctions aren't made in Google's shopping section.

Since its inception in 1998, Google has tried to cast itself as a force for good while depicting Microsoft as a ruthless empire. But Google is less cuddly now that it's established itself as the Internet's main gateway—and a well-oiled moneymaking machine. The Mountain View, California, company's search engine is so influential that government regulators in the U.S. and Europe are investigating whether Google has been stifling competition by giving special preference to

its own services in search results.

Microsoft, which faced its own antitrust inquiries more than a decade ago, is among the companies that prodded the investigation of Google. This time, it's pouncing on Google

for straying from its own principles. Google began limiting its shopping-only results to paying merchants in mid-October. The change coincides with what is expected to be the most lucrative holiday shopping season on the Web yet. The amount of money a merchant pays is one factor that influences the order of the shopping results, although Google says it still places the highest priority on each listing's relevancy to a user's request.

Google discloses that it receives payments in small print at the bottom of the shopping results page. The notice is also visible if a user clicks on a link at the top of the shopping results page, under the heading: "Why these products?" □

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Stocks gain on hopes for a deal to avoid 'cliff'

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks gained on signs that lawmakers are edging toward a deal that would help the U.S. avoid the "fiscal cliff." Indexes shrugged off an early loss and rose in afternoon trading Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 106.98 points, or 0.8 percent, at 12,985.11.

reached. Economists say the measures could push the country back into recession. President Barack Obama said he believed both parties can reach a "framework" on a debt-cutting deal before Christmas, while House Speaker John Boehner told reporters that he was optimistic a deal could be reached, according to news outlets including CNBC.

Johnson said. "There will be some compromise." Concern that the U.S. will go over the fiscal "cliff" has weighed on stocks since the Nov. 6 elections returned a divided government to power, with President Barack Obama staying in the White House and Republicans retaining control of the House. Uncertainty about a possible increase in capital gains taxes has been prompting investors to sell stocks, said Johnson. As the third-quarter corporate earnings period draws to a close, investors and traders have become increasingly fixated on the negotiations to cut the budget deficit.

Before Wednesday's gain, the market slumped Tuesday after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he was frustrated by the lack of progress in talks. The two moves canceled each other out, leaving both the Dow and the S&P 500 little changed for the week.

"We're all on pins and needles waiting for every bit of news, or rumors, coming out of Washington," said Ryan Detrick, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based technical analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research. Many companies are making special end-of-year dividend payments or moving up their quarterly payouts because investors

will have to pay higher taxes on dividend income starting in 2013, unless lawmakers reach a compromise on taxes and government spending.

Costco, the wholesale club operator, surged \$6.07 to \$102.58 after the company said it would pay a special dividend of \$7 a share next month, in addition to its regular quarterly dividend. Las Vegas Sands Corp. rose 5.3 percent Tuesday after the casino operator said it would distribute about \$2.26 billion to shareholders before the end of the year. It rose another 1.3 percent Wednesday, gaining 60 cents to \$49.96. □



James Dresch of MND Partners Inc. works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. Stocks gained on signs that lawmakers are edging toward a deal that would help the U.S. avoid the "fiscal cliff."

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

It had been down as much as 112 points in early trading. The Standard and Poor's 500 was up 10.99 points at 1,409.93. The Nasdaq composite rose 23.99 points to 2,991.78. Huge tax increases and spending cuts will come into effect Jan. 1 if no deal on the U.S. budget is

Craig Johnson, a Minneapolis, Minnesota-based technical market strategist at Piper Jaffray, said lawmakers realize that there is too much at stake to allow the deadline to pass. "I don't think that anybody in Washington is going to do something so draconian, or so negative, that we're going to trigger a recession,"

Knight Capital jumps on Getco offer

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Four months after a major software malfunction at Knight Capital Group roiled markets and threatened the company's survival, a rival trading firm stepped in with an offer to buy Knight at a steep premium. Getco put up a cash-and-stock offer that values Knight shares at \$3.50 — a 41 percent premium over the closing price on Nov. 23, before the first published reports about a possible buyout. But it's a fraction of the company's worth before the meltdown. Knight shares soared 14 percent in mid-day trading and the company postponed an investor conference scheduled for Monday.

The company has one of the most advanced platforms for trading brokerages. The Jersey City, New Jersey, company takes stock trading orders brokers like TD Ameritrade and E-Trade. It routes the orders to exchanges including the New York Stock Exchange.

Getco's offer provides a possible path forward after Knight suffered massive losses from the malfunction that sent the shares of dozens of publicly traded companies haywire, blasting out nonsensical orders that few could, or would, match.

Getco offered Knight shareholders "a significant cash payment" as well as a chance to profit from the company's rebirth as part of a new entity.

The merger would involve a two-step process, according to a letter from Getco to Knight, beginning with the issuance by Knight of 242 million new shares and warrants to Getco investors. The warrants would allow holders to buy Knight stock at a set value on some future date.

The combined company then would offer to buy up to \$539 million worth of Knight shares at \$3.50 apiece. The offer would cover half of the outstanding Knight shares not already owned by Getco. The former owners, including Getco, would not be eligible to sell their stock. □

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Fed: US economy growing at steady pace

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — A

pickup in consumer spending and steady home sales helped lift economic growth in October and early November in most parts of the United States, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday. The one exception was the Northeast, which was slowed by Superstorm Sandy.

Growth improved in nine of the Fed's 12 regional banking districts, the survey said. Growth was weaker in New York, Philadelphia and Boston — areas where Sandy caused widespread disruptions.

The survey noted that growth was better despite nervousness about the "fiscal cliff." That's the name for automatic tax increases and spending cuts that could kick in next year if Congress and the Obama administration can't reach a budget deal before then. Hiring increased in more than half of the districts. But manufacturing shrank or slowed in seven regions and was mixed in two others.

"The weakening in the tone of the Beige Book is clearly linked to the massive disruptions and damage related to Hurricane Sandy and there is no evidence of a wider slowdown in the economy," said Terry Sheehan, an analyst at Stone & McCarthy Research Associates. Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the message from the survey was "the economy looks to have improved slightly in the cur-

rent quarter, led by housing and consumers though businesses remain worried

economic conditions around the country from October through Nov. 14. The infor-

Dec. 11-12 meeting. Many economists believe the Fed could announce plans to

lower long-term interest rates and encourage more borrowing and spending. The purchases would come on top of the Fed's mortgage bond buying program, which is intended to lower mortgage rates and make home-buying more affordable. Recent government and private reports show the economy improved in October and early November, even as Sandy halted business activity along the East Coast. Employers added 171,000 jobs last month and hiring in September and August was stronger than previously thought. Rising home values, more hiring and lower gas prices pushed consumer confidence in November to the highest level in nearly five years. A better mood among consumers appears to have encouraged businesses to invest more in October after pulling back over the summer. □



Nancy Barch, left, and Itzel Nino work on assembly line at Generac Power Systems, Inc., in Whitewater, Wis. A pickup in consumer spending and steady home sales helped lift economic growth in October and early November in most parts of the United States, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday. The one exception was the Northeast, which was slowed by Superstorm Sandy.

about the outlook."

The report, called the Beige Book, provides anecdotal information on eco-

mation collected by the regional banks will be used as the basis for the Fed's policy discussion at the

buy more Treasury bonds at that meeting to replace a program set to expire at the end of the year. The goal of the program is to

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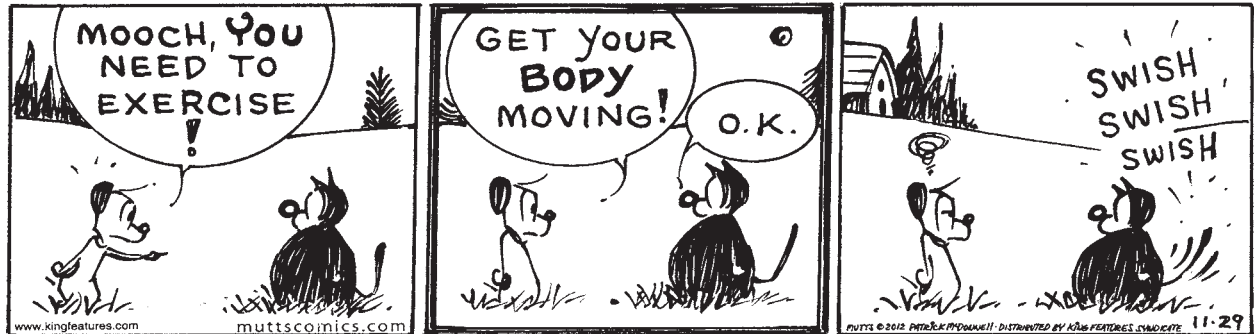
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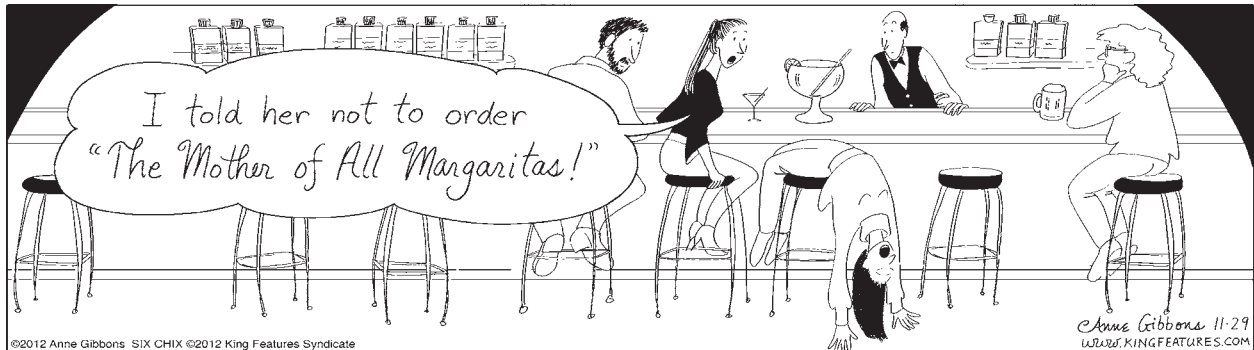
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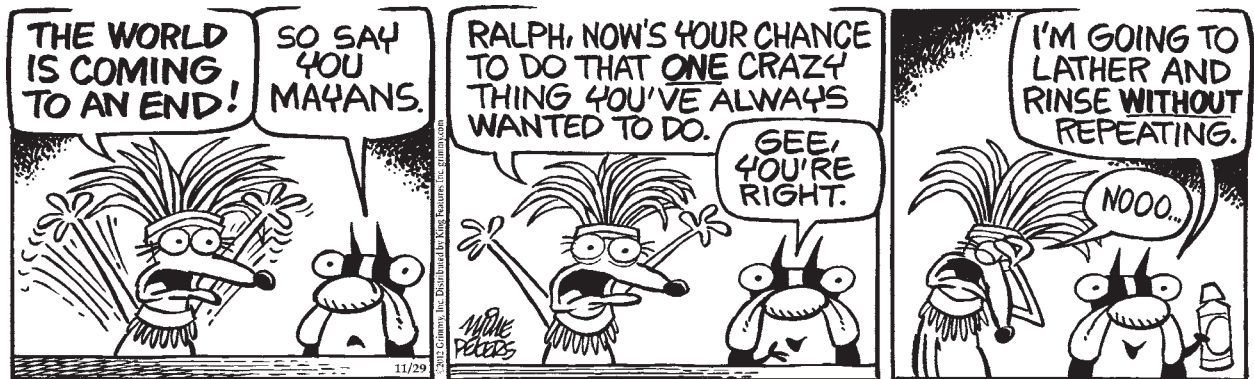
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		5					3	
			1			4		8
1				4				
	1		6			8		7
		9		2		6		
8		3			1		4	
			3					2
2		6		9				
	3					1		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	2	9	1	7	6	3	4	8
1	4	3	5	8	2	6	7	9
8	7	6	9	3	4	5	2	1
6	9	5	2	4	7	8	1	3
7	1	2	3	5	8	4	9	6
3	8	4	6	9	1	2	5	7
4	5	8	7	1	3	9	6	2
2	3	7	4	6	9	1	8	5
9	6	1	8	2	5	7	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Attila's people
- 5 Concrete strips
- 10 Be lazy
- 14 Shortly
- 15 Bandleader
- 16 Meanie
- 17 Dig for ore
- 18 Dwelling
- 19 Soprano Gluck
- 20 Church spire
- 22 Kaffeeklatsch
- 24 Stewart or Serling
- 25 Tea variety
- 26 Hard to climb
- 29 So __; till now
- 30 B-plus, for one
- 34 Bosc or Bartlett
- 35 Bunk or berth
- 36 Largest nation
- 37 Likely
- 38 Small pools left by a rainstorm
- 40 __ for the course; normal
- 41 Appeared
- 43 Boy
- 44 __ up; confined
- 45 __ badge; scout's award
- 46 Shortest month: abbr.
- 47 Late __ Shore
- 48 Dinner course
- 50 That girl
- 51 Homesteader
- 54 Trump & others
- 58 Region
- 59 "...for __ waves of grain..."
- 61 Shipshape
- 62 Skater's oval
- 63 Barking marine mammals
- 64 Despise
- 65 Prefix for room or chamber
- 66 Pyle or Kovacs
- 67 Eve's husband

DOWN

- 1 Show-offs
- 2 College credit
- 3 Zero
- 4 One with a derisive smile

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38			39			40			
41		42			43				44			
45					46			47				
		48	49			50						
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59	60				61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/29/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

READ	REPEL	CUTS
IDLY	EVAS	ASIA
OGLE	PENSI	ONERS
TEE	KENS	ACRES
	GREAT	ARE
FLAUNT	CLERIC	
RATIO	BROAD	NAE
ERIN	COHAN	THUD
EGO	TAROT	HOUSE
ENCORE	CARMEN	
	HAD	DONNA
INCAS	LAUD	NET
SAUNTERING	AIDE	
LILT	MANTA	STAR
ELLS	UTTER	HYMN

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11/29/12

- 38 Part of a flower
- 39 Hunting dog, for short
- 42 Boo-boo
- 44 Dangerous fish
- 46 "The __ in the Dell"
- 47 TV room, often
- 49 Rent long-term
- 50 Mare or stallion
- 51 Poet Teasdale
- 52 Actress Moran
- 53 Camp shelter
- 54 Sandwich shop
- 55 Pencil's center
- 56 Facts & figures
- 57 Flower stalk
- 60 Prohibit

A ken embraces his many Barbies

TIM MURPHY

© 2012 New York Times

NEW YORK – Chris Benz, the peppy fashion designer, strode into his West 37th Street studio the other Friday, nursing a large iced black Starbucks coffee. The workplace was cluttered with inspiration boards, magazine clippings and kitschy finds, including a canary yellow rotary phone.

He paused in the reception area, where, inside a glass-enclosed box, stood a 12-inch-tall action figure version of himself.

"Don't you love him?" Benz asked, in his perennially upbeat tone.



Fashion designer Chris Benz in his showroom in New York, Nov. 16, 2012. Benz is reaching out to more fans with a lower-priced line. (Casey Kelbaugh/The New York Times)

Like Benz, the plastic likeness had shocking pink hair, a boyishly short navy blazer and grungy rolled-up jeans and loafers.

"It's a little me," he said. "My production manager, Martha, made him for me out of a Ken doll."

It was an apt reuse of a toy icon. The kind of women whom Benz designs for (chic young things with a bohemian streak) are not unlike Barbie. That is, if Barbie had bedhead, dined at the West Village fashion canteen St. Ambroeus and jetted from Art Basel Miami Beach to Mykonos, Greece, for some beachy fun. Think of a young Edie Beale, statuesque but a bit nutty. Or Gwyneth Paltrow, as the brooding sister Margot in "The Royal Tenenbaums." "She's a carefree, artsy girl who likes to have fun and forgets to pay her cellphone bill," is how Benz described her. He referred to friends like Eva Amuri

Martino (daughter of Susan Sarandon) and Lola Montes Schnabel (daughter of Julian Schnabel), both of whom he has dressed over the years. His pieces have attracted fashion plaudits for their languid layers and their kooky splashes of color.

But making party dresses for your friends doesn't necessarily pay the bills, even when, like Benz, your clothes are splattered across society pages. He was given a big boost when President Barack Obama's younger daughter, Sasha, wore an emerald green skirt of his design (a hand-me-down from her sister,

shame in what he's doing," said Trenea Lombardo, fashion director for Shop-Bop, the retail site that carries Benz's line. "It makes him a smarter person who's trying to reach his customer. He was one of several young designers that catapulted forward in the 2000s before the market crashed. But the industry and the world have changed, and it's gotten harder to sell expensive clothes." And, Benz said, he was finding that his buyer was far older than the carefree rich bohemian girl of his imagination. As he sees it, lowering his prices allows him to reach more Margot Tenenbaums – even if they don't necessarily have loads of old family money. Benz grew up in Bainbridge Island, Wash., a ferry ride away from Seattle, where his father managed a brewery and his mother was a mortgage lender. His fashion exuberance came at an early age. "I'd wear oversize O.P. T-shirts to school and tie them at the hem," he recalled. He left high school at 16 to study at Parsons, during which time he was an intern for Marc Jacobs and won the Council of Fashion Designers of America scholarship for emerging talent. After graduating in 2004, he designed for J. Crew before starting his own collection in 2007. Eric Wilson, fashion reporter for The New York Times, singled him out among fashion's "newest darlings" and said the collection "may be the best example of the heightened level of sophistication that is expected of new designers today." Back in his showroom, Benz showed off the spring/summer 2013 collection he presented during New York Fashion Week in September. □

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Rhino killings for horns rapidly rise in S. Africa

JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

VAALKOP DAM NATURE RESERVE, South Africa (AP) —

By the time ranchers found the rhinoceros calf wandering alone in this idyllic setting of scrub brush and acacia, the nature reserve had become yet another blood-soaked crime scene in South Africa's losing battle against poachers. Hunters killed eight rhinos at the private Finfoot Game Reserve inside the Vaalkop Dam Nature Reserve this month with single rifle shots that pierced their hearts and lungs. The poachers' objective: the rhinos' horns, cut away with knives and popped off the dead animals' snouts for buyers in Asia who pay the U.S. street value of cocaine for a material they believe cures diseases. That insatiable demand for horns has sparked the worst recorded year of rhino poaching in South Africa in decades, with at least 588 rhinos killed so far, their carcasses rotting in private farms and national parks. Without drastic change, experts warn that soon the number of rhinos killed will outpace the number of the calves born — putting the entire population at risk in a nation that is the last bastion for the prehistoric-looking animals.

"This is a full-on bush war we are fighting," said Marc Lappeman, who runs the Finfoot reserve with his father Miles and has begun armed vigilante patrols to protect the remaining rhinos there. "We here are willing to die for these animals." Unchecked hunting nearly killed off all the rhinos in southern Africa at the beginning of the 1900s. Conservationists in the 1960s airlifted rhinos to different parts of South Africa to spread them out. That helped the population grow to the point that South Africa is now home to some 20,000 rhinos — 90 percent of all rhinos in Africa.

From the 1990s to 2007, rhino poachings in South Africa averaged about 15 a year, according to a recent report by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC. In 2008, however, poachers killed 83 rhinos and by 2009, the number hit 122, the report says. The killings grew exponentially after that: 333 in 2010, 448 in 2011 and as of Tuesday, at least 588 rhino killed this year alone, according to South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs. "That the year-on-year rhino poaching losses have continued to grow in the face of heightened awareness, constant media at-



In this photo taken Friday, Nov. 22, 2012, a carcass of a rhino lays on the ground at Finfoot Lake Reserve near Tantanana, South Africa. South Africa says at least 588 rhinos have been killed by poachers this year alone, 8 rhinos at the Finfoot Lake Reserve, the worst recorded year in decades.

Associated Press

tention and concerted law enforcement effort is testament to just how pervasive and gripping the rhino crisis in South Africa has become," TRAFFIC wrote in its August report. "If poaching continues to increase annually as it has done since 2007, then eventually deaths will exceed births and rhino numbers in South Africa will start to fall." Most of the killings, according to government statistics, occur in South Africa's massive Kruger National Park, covering 19,400 square kilometers (7,500 square miles) in the country's northeast abutting its borders with Mozambique and Zimbabwe. There, the impoverished slip across the park's borders, largely from Mozambique, to kill and dehorn rhino, earning the equivalent of months' wages in a single night of hunting. South Africa has deployed soldiers in the park with dogs to sniff out poachers, but their small force can't sufficiently cover a park that's roughly the same size as New Jersey. The horns are sold by criminal gangs and smuggled into Asia. While poachers have been shot dead and

hundreds of suspects arrested this year, the rhino killings continue unstopped largely because the trade is transnational and worth millions of dollars, said Julian Rademeyer, a journalist in South Africa who wrote "Killing for Profit," a book on rhino poaching that came out this month. "The problem with law enforcement strategies is they end where our border ends," Rademeyer said.

And law enforcement can't always be trusted in South Africa, where corruption eats away at the nation. There have been several cases of rangers assigned to guard parks being arrested for aiding poachers. With both South Africa and Swaziland allowing rhino to be hunted legally, criminal gangs have obtained hunting licenses under false pretenses. Gangs have hired prostitutes and the poor from Asia and Eastern Europe to pose as big game hunters with licenses to kill a single rhino apiece, Rademeyer said. Their "trophies" end up shipped back to Asia, where the horns are removed and sold.

Rhino horn is made of keratin, a tough protein found

in human fingernails. Doctors have repeatedly said the material has no medical value. In Asia, however, demand for rhino horn has jumped dramatically. Experts blame it partly on a widespread rumor in Vietnam that rhino horn cures cancer, though some elite Vietnamese grind up horn and take it as a hangover cure or as a fever reducer. The ever-increasing demand saw Vietnamese poachers kill the last of Vietnam's rare Javan rhinoceros last year for its horn. The World Wildlife Fund ranked Vietnam as the worst country for wildlife crime in Asia and Africa in July. The country is seen as having lax laws on importing horns. Diplomats at the Vietnamese Embassy in South Africa's capital Pretoria have also been linked to trafficking. Earlier this month, a South African court sentenced a Thai national to 40 years in prison for selling rhino horns. With high-level officials involved and a strong demand, Rademeyer said poaching "will probably get a lot worse before it gets any better." Rhino poachers have gone beyond Kruger and are targeting private farms and reserves. Poachers likely watched the Finfoot Game Reserve, which breeds rhino for game viewing, for days, Lappeman said. Workers caught a man in ragged clothes lurking around the park with more than 1,000 rand (\$115) in crisp hundred rand bills and a new mobile phone in his pocket around the time of the killings, Lappeman said. The poachers fired on the rhino far from the game lodge, probably moving methodically closer as no one came to investigate the shots, he said. □

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Nearing 50, a heightened perspective for Pitt

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The face is hardly wrinkled and the long blond locks appear unchanged, but Brad Pitt, who will turn 49 in December, is increasingly preoccupied with the passage of time and the thought that his rarefied place in movies is fleeting.

It's now been more than 20 years since Pitt broke out as the heartthrob of "Thelma & Louise." While nothing has diminished his status as one of the few genuine movie stars on the planet, Pitt says he's now working as if an expiration date lurks.

"I'm definitely past halfway," says Pitt. "I think about it very much as a father. You just want to be around to see (your children) do everything. If I have so many days left, how am I filling those days? I've been agonizing over that one a bit like I never have before."

But that sense of urgency has helped fuel some of Pitt's best, most daring work, including his new film, "Killing Them Softly." It's his second with Andrew Dominik, the New Zealand-born director of "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford." In the adaption of George V. Higgins' 1974 crime novel, "Cogan's Trade," Pitt plays a hit man operating in a shabby underworld of image-conscious gangsters. It's almost surprising how few blockbusters Pitt has starred in over the last decade. Instead, he's gravitated toward working with revered directors like Terrence Malick ("Tree of Life") and the Coen brothers, and shaping his opportunities by producing them. His production company, Plan B, produced both "Jesse James" and "Killing Them



Brad Pitt poses for a portrait to promote his film, "Killing Them Softly," on Monday, Nov. 26, 2012 in New York.

Softly," as well as many of his films in between. More often than not, he's sought to downplay his glamor, a track begun with David Fincher's "Fight Club" and extended with ruminations on celebrity (Dominik's "Jesse James") and more character actor roles than most leading men would dare (his ditzzy personal trainer in the Coens' "Burn After Reading," his Nazi-killing lieutenant in Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds"). "Killing Them Softly," too, is an ensemble, with James Gandolfini, Richard Jenkins, Ray Liotta, Scoot McNairy and Ben Mendelsohn. Even in last year's performance as Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane in "Moneyball" (for which he landed his third Oscar nomination), Pitt deliberately played it low-key. "Life is more interesting," says the Missouri-bred Pitt. "I enjoy the fantasy; I enjoy when everyone wins. I just don't contribute to that

idea very well, for better or worse. There's something subversive in my Christian upbringing or something, my mid-America upbringing. That irreverent urge that makes you want to yell or fart during the Benediction in church. I just can't help it." And yet, Pitt has simultaneously carried the movie star mantle with seeming ease. Though his relationship with Angelina Jolie, with whom he has six children, has made him a constant tabloid target, he's relaxed and unguarded in conversation. He says his celebrity "hasn't bugged me since the '90s," but he acknowledges that he occasionally trades on it: "I mean, I play some smart ball," he says. "The difficulty with Brad was always: What can you cast a movie star in?" says Dominik. "You have to deal with it. You have to cast him as someone extraordinary, which I guess he is. He's the cool guy in the movie." Certainly a very un-"Fight

Club" thing to do was the recent Chanel ad campaign Pitt stars in, where he smolders in black-and-white and says things like "It's not a journey" into the camera. The spots were mocked on "Saturday Night Live," to which Pitt says cheerfully: "Fair play, fair play." After a reporter admits not knowing much about fragrances, he laughs: "Apparently, neither do I." So why do it? "Never done it before," says Pitt. "Respect the company. I'm getting old. Last time I'll probably be able to do something like that." It's a line of reasoning that seems pervasive in Pitt's choices right now, including his current project: "World War Z." It's a zombie action film reportedly budgeted at \$180 million that could give Pitt what his resume is missing: a franchise. "I'm not a franchise guy," he says. "They told me I should be focusing on that, as I'm getting older and cresting the precipice and

heading down the other side: 'You should really bank one of those.' I'm just not good at it."

It's also a far bigger scale production for Pitt and Plan B, and things haven't gone smoothly. The ending is being reshot — typically a bad sign for a movie — and Pitt calls the film "a total learning experience for me." When the film finally wraps, he says, "Believe me, I'll be celebrating."

Dede Gardner, Pitt's producing partner, says getting older has only made Pitt more patient.

"He's extremely careful," says Gardner. "I suppose that's one thing that happens if you age with consciousness, to be vigilant." Their other coming productions are smaller, more director-driven. Plan B is producing the next film by Steve McQueen ("Shame"), "12 Years a Slave," and is slated to again produce a film by Dominik: his planned Marilyn Monroe biopic "Blonde."

"Somewhere in the late '90s, it became clear to me that there were many leading men roles that you could plug anyone of us into and virtually get the same thing," says Pitt. "Because there's such an investment of time and thought, I wanted to find stories that were more personal to me and that I believed I could add something that was unique."

"Killing Them Softly," is certainly that, a film that probably wouldn't exist if not for Pitt. It's an unusual mix of genre — gangsters and guns — and politics. Set in 2008, the fiscal crisis looms large, with speeches by Bush and Obama inserted as an obvious metaphor. Pitt's character declares: "America isn't a country. It's a business." □

Associated Press



In this Dec. 31, 1996 file photo, Dick Clark broadcasts during New Year's festivities from Times Square in New York.

Associated Press.

ABC celebrating Dick Clark on New Year's Eve

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC is turning its first New Year's Eve without Dick Clark in four decades partly into a celebration of the showbiz impresario's life.

Clark, who originated the annual "New Year's Rockin' Eve" special in 1971, died at age 82 in April.

Fergie and Jenny McCarthy will be hosts of a two-hour tribute to Clark that will air on New Year's Eve.

ABC said Wednesday that Ryan Seacrest will host the countdown show from Times Square, with Taylor Swift, Carly Rae Jepsen, Neon Trees, Flo Rida and Pitbull among the musical guests. Seacrest hosted the past few years with Clark making short appearances. A stroke had diminished Clark's communications skills.

Al Green, Helen Reddy and Three Dog Night performed at Clark's first New Year's special. □

Title, release date announced for Amanda Knox memoir

NEW YORK (AP)

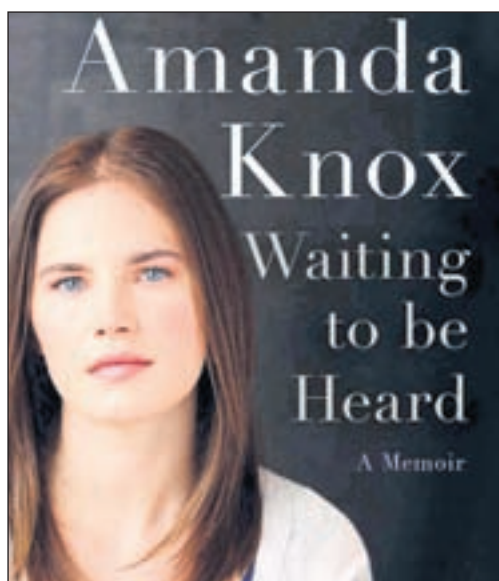
— Amanda Knox's upcoming memoir has a title, a cover design and a new publication date.

HarperCollins announced Wednesday that the book is titled "Waiting to be Heard." It will come out April 30, two months later than originally scheduled. The date was changed out of deference to the court in Italy that scheduled

a March 25 hearing for the prosecution's appeal of the former exchange student's acquittal in the 2007 murder of her British roommate.

The 25-year-old Knox returned to her native Seattle, Wash., in 2011 after spending four years in a Perugia, Italy jail. Her ordeal made international headlines and her book deal, announced in February, was reportedly worth \$4 million.

The cover features a close-up of an intense, unsmiling Knox. The picture was taken earlier this year. □



his undated photo provided by HarperCollins shows the cover design of "Waiting to be Heard". Amanda Knox's upcoming memoir has a title, a cover design and a new publication date.

Associated Press

'Cuckoo's Nest' filmmaker Forman earns DGA prize

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two-time Academy Award winner Milos Forman is receiving the lifetime-achievement award from his peers at the Directors Guild of America.

The filmmaker who won Oscars for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus" will be getting the guild honor at the directors union awards ceremony Feb. 2.

In announcing the award Wednesday, guild President Taylor Hackford called Forman one of the greatest filmmakers of modern times, saying the filmmaker



In this May 24, 2010 file photo, Milos Forman arrives to the Film Society of Lincoln Center's 37th Chaplin Award Gala honoring Michael Douglas in New York.

Associated Press

finds the "universality of the human experience in every story."

Along with the directing Oscars for "Cuckoo's Nest" and "Amadeus," Forman also received the Directors Guild top prize for both films.

Among Forman's other films are "Ragtime," "The People vs. Larry Flynt" and "Man on the Moon."

Forman is the 34th recipient of the guild honor, whose past recipients include Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Martin Scorsese, Stanley Kubrick, Ingmar Bergman, Orson Welles and Alfred Hitchcock. □

Rapper PSY wants Tom Cruise to go 'Gangnam Style'



South Korean rapper PSY, who sings the popular "Gangnam Style," greets Thai fans after a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. PSY will perform in Thailand on Wednesday night - his first show in Asia outside of South Korea. Associated Press

JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The South Korean rapper behind YouTube's most-viewed video ever has set what might be a "Mission: Impossible" for himself.

Asked which celebrity he would like to see go "Gangnam Style," the singer PSY told The Associated Press: "Tom Cruise!"

Surrounded by screaming fans, he then chuckled at the idea of the American movie star doing his now famous horse-riding dance. PSY's comments Wednesday in Bangkok were his first

public remarks since his viral smash video — with 838 million views — surpassed Justin Bieber's "Baby," which until Saturday held the record with 803 million views. "It's amazing," PSY told a news conference, saying he never set out to become an international star. "I made this video just for Korea, actually. And when I released this song — wow." The video has spawned hundreds of parodies and tribute videos and earned him a spotlight alongside a variety of superstars. Earlier this month, Madonna invited PSY onstage and they danced to his song at

one of her New York City concerts. MC Hammer introduced the Korean star at the American Music Awards as, "My Homeboy PSY!"

Even President Barack Obama is talking about him. Asked on Election Day if he could do the dance, Obama replied: "I think I can do that move," but then concluded he might "do it privately for Michelle," the first lady.

PSY was in Thailand to give a free concert Wednesday night organized as a tribute to the country's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who turns 85 next month. He paid respects to the king at a Bangkok shopping mall, signing his name in an autograph book placed beside a giant poster of the king. He then gave an outdoor press conference, as screaming fans nearby performed the pop star's dance.

Determined not to be a one-hit wonder, PSY said he plans to release a worldwide album in March with dance moves that he thinks his international fans will like.

"I think I have plenty of dance moves left," he said, in his trademark sunglasses and dark suit. □

How People Change



DAVID BROOKS

© 2012 New York Times

Nick Crews was, by his own admission, a middling father. He enjoyed cuddling with his three kids, but he was frequently away on naval deployments and didn't stay in touch with them once they went off to boarding school. Over the years, Crews has watched his children (the oldest is 40) make a series of terrible decisions.

"I bought into the fashionable philosophy of not interfering; letting the children find themselves," he told Cristina Odone of The Telegraph of London.

Finally, in February, Crews decided he'd had enough. He sent his offspring an email message, which is now known in Britain as the Crews Missile.

"Dear All Three," he wrote. "With last evening's crop of whinges and tidings of more rotten news for which you seem to treat your mother like a cess-pit, I feel it is time to come off my perch.

"It is obvious that none of you has the faintest notion of the bitter disappointment each of you has in your own way dished out to us. We are seeing the miserable death throes of the fourth of your collective marriages at the same time we see the advent of a fifth."

Crews continued: "I wonder if you realise how we feel – we have nothing to say which reflects any credit on you or us. Fulfilling careers based on your educations would have helped – but as yet none of you is what I would confidently term properly self-supporting."

Then he turned to his grandchildren.

"So we witness the introduction to this life of six beautiful children – soon to be seven – none of whose parents have had the maturity and sound judgment to make a reasonable fist at making essential threshold decisions. ...

"The predictable result has been a decade of deep unhappiness over the fates of our grandchildren. If it wasn't for them, Mum and I would not be too concerned, as each of you consciously, and with eyes wide open, crashes from one cock-up to the next. It makes us weak that so many of these events are copulation-driven, and then helplessly to see these lovely little people being woefully let down by you, their parents."

Crews then finished his email. "I want to hear no more from any of

you until, if you feel inclined, you have a success or an achievement or a REALISTIC plan for the support and happiness of your children to tell me about."

He signed the email, "I am bitterly, bitterly disappointed. Dad." That email, released by one of his daughters hoping to get publicity for a book she is translating, has made Crews a hugely popular folk hero in Britain. Many parents are apparently delighted that someone finally had the gump-tion to give at least one set of overprivileged slackers a well-deserved kick in the pants.

The problem, of course, is that no matter how emotionally satisfying these tirades may be, they don't really work.

You can tell people that they are fat and that they shouldn't eat more french fries, but that doesn't mean they will stop. You can make all sorts of New Year's resolutions, earnestly deciding to behave better, but that doesn't mean you will.

People don't behave badly because they lack information about their shortcomings. They behave badly because they've fallen into patterns of destructive behavior from which they're unable to escape.

Human behavior flows from hidden springs and calls for constant and crafty prodding more than blunt hectoring. The way to get someone out of a negative cascade is not with a ferocious email trying to attack his bad behavior. It's to go on offense and try to maximize some alternative good behavior. There's a trove of research suggesting that it's best to tackle negative behaviors obliquely, by redirecting attention toward different, positive ones.

It's foolish to imperiously withdraw and say, come back to me when you have a plan. It's better to pick one area of life at a time (most people don't have the willpower to change their whole lives all at once) and help a person lay down a pre-emptive set of concrete rules and rewards. Pick out a small goal and lay out measurable steps toward it.

It's foolhardy to try to persuade people to see the profound errors of their ways in the hope that mental change will lead to behavioral change. Instead, try to change superficial behavior first and hope that, if they act differently, they'll eventually think differently. Lure people toward success with the promise of admiration instead of trying to punish failure with criticism. Positive rewards are more powerful.

I happen to cover a field – politics – in which people are perpetually bellowing at each other to be better. They're always issuing the political version of the Crews Missile.

It's a lousy leadership model. Don't try to bludgeon bad behavior. Change the underlying context. Change the behavior triggers. Displace bad behavior with different good behavior. Be oblique. Redirect. □



Obama's 'New' Cabinet? Really?



JOE NOCERA

© 2012 New York Times

Elisse B. Walter?

Is that really whom President Barack Obama named on Monday to be the new chairwoman of the Securities and Exchange Commission? A woman who has been at the SEC for the last four years? And, to boot, someone practically joined at the hip with her predecessor, Mary Schapiro? Say it ain't so, Mr. President.

No doubt, Walter is a fine public servant. What she is not, however, is a fresh face with new ideas. And isn't that half the point of second-term appointments? They give a president a chance to name Cabinet or agency directors who can breathe new life into their departments. Second-term appointments are presidential do-overs. Take, for instance, Timothy Geithner, the soon-to-be-departing Treasury secretary. All things considered, Geithner wasn't a bad secretary. In no small part because of him, America's banks are far better capitalized – and hence safer – than their European counterparts. But you always had the sense that his heart lay more with the bankers he was overseeing than the homeowners who needed help.

That is why our nominee to replace Geithner is his bete noire, Sheila Bair. As the chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insur-

ance Corp., a job she held until July 2011, she fought against bank bailouts while pushing for mortgage modifications. Her new book, "Bull By the Horns," is mostly her inside account of the financial crisis. But she also offers a series of sensible policy suggestions. Wouldn't you like a Treasury secretary who believes that interest on debt should not be tax deductible – whether for large financial institutions or home mortgages? I sure would.

Let's move next to the State Department, where an exhausted Hillary Clinton is ready to step down. She has been, without question, Obama's finest appointment. She was also his riskiest. The current favorite for the job, Susan Rice, the U.N. ambassador, is a safe choice, but she doesn't have the breadth that the job requires. Who does? How about Bill Clinton? Seriously.

The president's worst Cabinet appointment, on the other hand, has been Eric Holder Jr. at the Department of Justice. Under him, the department got prosecutorial scalps by going after the small fry while letting big guys like Angelo Mozilo, the former chief executive of Countrywide, off the hook. Holder has also been tone-deaf in dealing with the Republicans in Congress. Our nominee is a man with a reputation for cleaning up messes: Ken Feinberg, a lawyer who now specializes in victim compensation programs. A former special counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, he knows the territory. A master negotiator, he knows how to bridge divides. And his sense of fair play is exactly what this Justice Department most needs.

Department of Defense? David Petraeus. After disclosing an affair with Paula Broadwell and resigning as CIA chief, Petraeus is doing his stint in purgatory. The Defense Department in Obama's second term is going to need

someone who can cut its budget without hurting its mission – and who can reform the most entrenched bureaucracy in Washington. The military brass will run bureaucratic circles around any defense secretary who doesn't know their tricks. Petraeus can stand up to them. The current secretary of energy, Steven Chu, is a scientist. A far better choice is a committed environmentalist who also understands the importance of making intelligent energy choices. We know just such a man: Fred Krupp of the Environmental Defense Fund. Unlike most environmental groups, the defense fund supports using hydraulic fracturing – fracking – to drill for natural gas. He is on record as saying that there are enormous climate benefits to using natural gas – so long as methane leakage can be minimized. At the Energy Department, Krupp would be in a position to help make sure that happens. With rumors that Arne Duncan may step down as secretary of education, we nominate Randi Weingarten to replace him. Risky? You bet. But as the president of the American Federation of Teachers, Weingarten has long claimed to support education reform, so long as it is done with the nation's teachers instead of at their expense. Making Weingarten the next education secretary would give her the chance to put her money where her mouth is. Which brings us back to the SEC. In The Times' account of Walter's promotion, it said that the White House might well offer up a new nominee in the future. We know the right man for the job: Sean Berkowitz. Berkowitz, who, in full disclosure, is a friend, led the Enron task force and prosecuted Enron's top two executives, Jeffrey Skilling and Kenneth Lay. So he knows how to nail the bad guys, which has been a problem for the current SEC. □

Rastafarianism on the rise in Jamaica

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

BULL BAY, Jamaica (AP)

— The robed Rastafarian priest looked out over the turquoise sea off Jamaica's southeast coast and fervently described his belief that deliverance is at hand. Around him at the sprawling Bobo Ashanti commune on an isolated hilltop, a few women and about 200 dreadlocked men with flowing robes and tightly wrapped turbans prayed, fasted, and fashioned handmade brooms — smoking marijuana only as a ceremonial ritual.

"Rasta church is rising," declared Priest Morant, who wore a vestment stitched with the words "The Black Christ." "There's nothing that can turn it back."

The Rastafarian faith is indeed rising in Jamaica, where new census figures show a roughly 20 percent increase in the number of adherents over a decade, to more than 29,000. While still a tiny sliver of the mostly Christian country's 2.7 million people, Jalani Niaah, an expert in the Rastafari movement, says the number is more like 8 to 10 percent of the population, since many Rastas disdain

nearly all government initiatives and not all would have spoken to census takers. "Its contemporary appeal is particularly fascinating to young men, especially in the absence of alternative sources for their development," said Niaah, a lecturer at the University of the West Indies.

Founded 80 years ago by descendants of African slaves, the Rasta movement's growing appeal is attributable to its rejection of Western materialism, the scarcity of opportunities for young men in Jamaica and an increasing acceptance of it. For the black nationalist Bobo Ashanti commune, the Rastafarian faith is a transforming way of life, where Rastas strive to live a frugal existence uncomplicated by binding relationships to "Babylon" — the unflattering term for the Western world. They share a deep alienation from modern life and Jamaica is perceived as a temporary harbor until prophecy is fulfilled and they journey to the promised land of Africa on big ships. Life is highly regimented at the isolated retreat, cut off from most of the comforts of modern society. But it has a strong



White-robed Rastafarian Priest Forrester motions towards the ocean below where he believes that big ships will someday arrive to carry the descendants of African slaves back to Africa, at the isolated hilltop Bobo Ashanti commune in Bull Bay, Jamaica.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

appeal for some, among them 27-year-old Adrian Dunkley, who joined the strict sect two months ago after years of questioning his Christian upbringing and struggling to find work as an upholsterer.

"This place is helping me a whole heap. I'm learning every day, and things are starting to make sense," the new recruit known as Prince Adrian said in the shade of one of dozens of scrap-board buildings painted in the bright Rastafarian colors of red, green

and gold. Other Rastafari adherents follow a more secular lifestyle, marked by a passion for social justice, the natural world, reggae music and the ritualistic use of pot to bring them closer to the divine. A melding of Old Testament teachings and Pan-Africanism, Rastafarianism emerged in colonial-era Jamaica in the 1930s out of anger over the oppression of blacks. Its message was spread by the reggae songs created by musical icons Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Burning Spear and others in the 1970s, and the movement has attracted a following among reggae-loving Americans, Europeans and Asians. Academics believe at least 1 million people practice it worldwide.

In the United States, the population of Rastafarians appears to be steadily growing due in part to jailhouse conversions, said Charles Price, associate professor of anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the author of "Becoming Rasta: Origins of Rastafari Identity in Jamaica."

"I regularly get letters from inmates seeking information," Price said. "I also get regular invitations to talk to prisoners at local North Carolina juvenile facilities, often from chaplains trying to figure out what to do." Besides the well-known ritu-

al use of marijuana, Rastas endeavor to reject materialist values and practice a strict oneness with nature, eating only unprocessed foods and leaving their hair to grow, uncombed, into dreadlocks. Most of its many sects worship the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, even though he was widely considered a despot in his native land and paid little heed to his adulation by faraway Caribbean people whose ancestry tended to be West African and not Ethiopian. The worship of Selassie is rooted in Jamaican black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey's 1920s prediction that a "black king shall be crowned" in Africa, ushering in a "day of deliverance." When an Ethiopian prince named Ras Tafari, who took the name Haile Selassie I, became emperor in 1930, the descendants of slaves in Jamaica took it as proof that Garvey's prophecy was being fulfilled. When Selassie came to Jamaica in 1966, he was mobbed by cheering crowds, and many Rastafarians insisted miracles and other mystical happenings occurred during his visit. Adherents were long treated as second-class citizens in Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, looked down on for their dreadlocks and use of marijuana. □



Rastafarian Priest Noah poses for a photo on the porch of a "holy palace" at the Bobo Ashanti commune in Bull Bay, Jamaica. More people are joining Jamaica's homegrown Rastafarian religion some 80 years after it was founded by the descendants of African slaves in response to black oppression on the Caribbean island.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)